Maine Farmer.

AGRICULTURE, MECHANIC ARTS, LITERATURE, NEWS, &c.

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Cardinal Points in Agriculture.

There are four requisites to successful husbandry, and the neglect of one of them will always result in partial failure. We would especially impress these upon the minds of our younger readers who purpose to engage in farming, for they are the best and cheapest means of increasing the profits of the tillage farm, and therefore lie at the foundation of all good husbandry. The words which express these great principles are not unfamiliar to any farmer, yet we fear that by many they are not appreciated as they should be. They are drainage, fertilization, alternating crops and root culture. When a young man settles on a farm with which he is unfamiliar, whether the farm be new or old, he should look our for wet places, and study the best means of divesting his soils of surplus moisture. No crops can flourish with "wet feet," but when once properly drained, such spots become more productive than any other part of the farm. If there is surface water, it stagnates in summer and is prejudicial to crops and hurtful to animals. If it proceeds from springs, it keeps the temperature of the soil too low for vegetation, and in either case, prevents the land from being worked early or at all, during wet seasons, and so retards the decomposition of vegetable matter, that the land is not properly fertilized. Go for the wet places.

The best fertilizer for crops is stable manure. It contains the true food for plants and in good proportion, provided always that it has been properly protected from waste. Every farmer has demonstrated this in his practice, again and again. We can no more get good crops from an impoverished soil than we can get good beef from a dry and verdureless pasture. Vegetable matter constitutes alike the raw material for beef, and for corn and wheat. The elementary matters of both are essentially and in fact materially the same. Every vegetable and every animal substance in a decaying state, contains food for our farm crops. Every crop we take from a soil exhausts it of its fertility, and unless we return an equivalent in manure of some kind, the question when such land will become a barren waste is only one of time. If our manure heap is insufficient, we must have recourse to special fertilizers, and these if honestly compounded will generally prove satisfactory. We can also practice green manuring, which has been successfully adopted in many parts of the country. We can also utilize our muck deposits, for Webster says that muck is a manure, and a great many farmers know it to be such. Anything that contains plant food in an available form or which can be made available by the action of sun and rain, is a manure; any substance that contains more plant food in proportion to its weight, than the soil to which it is applied, becomes to such soil a manure or dressing, all the *labratory* farmers to the contrary notwithstanding. Then we say, if you have a good soil, keep it so by liberal manuring, and if you have not a good soil nor the means to make it so, the quicker you leave it, the better it will be for you.

Few soils will bear a repetition of the same crops for successive years. We might just as well have said that no soil will, for the deep, rich soils of Aroostook, of Canada West and of Michigan, and even the richer and deeper soils of the western prairies, show signs of exhaustion in diminished production after successive cropping of the same kind of crops. Even with the aid of dung, ordinary soils will show diminished production without rotation of crops; one reason is that each crop takes from the soil a specific food which other kinds do not take in like quantity. Hence during an intermission of four or five years, the usual round of crops, there will be restored to the soil the specific food for the plant which it has not produced during this interval. A three years' round often works well, beginning with the grains, next with clover or hoed crops, which ameliorate the soil and pulverize it, and next with perennial grasses such as timothy, orchard grass, &c. If retained too long in grass, the soil becomes too compact and impervious to the genial influences of heat and air. In England where hay is not a leading object, they have a four years' rotation, embracing the several kinds of grain, and turnips.

We regard root culture as of great importance to the farmer notwithstanding the small feeding value placed upon them by recent experimenters, whose results in the labratory do not correspond with the experience of the practical farmer. Root culture gives the most food for animals with the least labor; under good management it is the most certain in its returns; it best ameliorates the condition of the soil and prepares it for dry crops and it affords the most important link in the chain of alternation. In Great Britain and on the continent of Europe where agriculture has attained its highest perfection, it is considered the foundation of all good husbandry. It has, by long continued practice, transformed such barren counties as Norfolk and others into the most profitable agricultural counties of England. In root culture is, of course, embraced the cultivation of the potato which heads the list, followed in their order by sugar beets, ruta bagas, mangolds, carrots and parsnips. High as the sugar beet is regarded in France and Germany for its sugar producing qualities, it is no less valued as an alternating crop and as offering excellent material for making good beef and mutton.

We are aware that in this article we have said nothing new, nothing that has not been many times spread before our readers, but "line upon line and precept upon precept" applies here as appropriately as elsewhere. These great principles that underlie our husbandry must constantly be kept in mind; they are the four cardinal points in good husbandry, and if lost sight of in our farm operations, we are afloat like the mariner upon a waste of water without compass to guide or rudder to steer. To the end that we may keep them in view, we must read and study the agricultural publications of the day; these bring constantly to our notice the discoveries and improvements that are going on in our business, and give in detail the best farming practices of our country and of the world. The farmer that does not keep pace with the improvements in his business will not long find either pleasure or profit in his employment. He who stands still, contented with the methods and practices of his ancestors will soon find himself alone, the spared monument of Divine mercy, the business active world having passed away ahead of him.

Geese Raising.

We have often wondered as we have passed through the country, at the small number of geese now kept by farmers. We can well remember when they were found upon almost every farm and oftentimes in large numbers; now a flock of geese is a rare sight and an inspection of our markets before Christmas shows that geese-raising now neglected, promises soon to be among the abandoned industries of our State. We cannot understand why it should be so. Geese among the domestic fowl are what sheep are among farm animals. They yield feathers, and live geese feathers are always in demand, and nothing pays better for the time and money spent in rearing them than the young of the geese. We can well remember when a six or eight pound dressed gosling could be bought in the market for twenty-five or thirty cents; now such an one would bring from a dollar and a quarter to a dollar and a half; and even at the former low rate they were considered profitable to raise. The great increase in the price of this class of fowl is partly due to their scarcity and partly to our proximity to the great markets which railway facilities have brought almost to our doors.

The rearing of geese requires some labor and considerable care and in the times of which we have spoken when geese were plenty, this labor was mostly performed by the farmers' wives and daughters. It is possible that the abandonment of geese-raising almost everywhere observable, is due to the unwillingness of farmers' wives and daugiters of the present day to take charge of any out-of-doors work on the farm. We do not say that it is so; only that it is possible. An English paper says that in many parts of France, geese constitute the chief food of the population. In the markets there, geese are sold in quarters or in halves, the same as lambs are cut up and sold in our markets, and a small family is able to get a savory dinner for much less than would be required for the same quantity of butcher's meat. In the same place both geese and ducks are preserved in various ways for winter use. Geese are also there made profitable as egg-producers. A Toulouse goose, it is said, if not permitted to set, will lay from fifty to sixty eggs in a season. The same paper says in relation to the methods adopted for rearing the young:

It is said in France that when the eggs are hatched by the goose the goslings come forth three or four days sooner than they do when a hen is the mother, and if this is true it is probably because of the greater warmth engendered by the larger bird. The delay is, however, not worth considering, as it is very desirable to proiong the time of laying. Moreover, the goose has the bad propensity of abandoning the rest of her eggs as soon as the first gosling makes its appearance, unless the little creature is immediately taken from her. It is therefore extremely necessary to be upon the watch when she is allowed to sit, and to have a basket warmly lined with flannel, in which to place the goslings, until the whole number being hatched they can be given back to their mother. In the first stage of their existence the little birds must on no account be placed in the sunshine, nor should they be allowed out for the first six or seven days. The greatest precaution must also be afterwards taken to avoid their getting wet; rain is, in fact, their greatest enemy, and it is quite a frequent occurrence in France for whole flocks of goslings to be killed off by being caught in unexpected thunderstorms, for if the down with which they are covered becomes matted, nothing can save them. After the first few days' regime of chopped eggs and nettles, young goslings may be given a mixture of potatoes, meal and green vegetables cut up very finely; the nettle, however, suits them better than any other green food, as its juice of that plant seems especially favorable to their digestion, which is so rapid that young geese must be fed five or six times a day. With them, as with all other young animals, it is necessary to give abundant nourishment from the very first. Later on they will eat beet root, either raw or cooked, and most kinds of green vegetables, as well as any sort of grain, and are especially fond of fruit.

Whoever wishes to have success with geese, says the same account, must be careful to give them a house which is large and airy enough, and plenty of clean bedding. The abominable practice of letting ducks and geese sleep in the hen-house cannot be sufficiently reprehended. The goose in particular is a bird which likes cleanliness, and which, indeed, can never thrive properly where this is wanting. That much water is not absolutely necessary to geese, is proved by the fact of their being largely kept in places where it is extremely deficient; still it is certain that those fowls thrive better in the neighborhood of streams or on marshy ground. Any coarse meadow suits them well, but it will not do to give them the run of grasses which have not been sown long enough to be firmly rooted, as otherwise they will pull them up. The fattening of geese is usually a separate industry in France, the subjects being bought from the peasants by dealers, who sell them to those whose business it is to prepare the birds for the markets. In England, however, it is more the farmer's interest to attend to this business himself, as he can utilize in this way much produce that would otherwise be wasted, and as they do not require their birds to be brought to that state of fatness—in reality a state of disease—which the French consider necessary they can be made perfectly ready for the market without being subjected to any kind of cruelty. Besides supplying the wants of its own population, France exports to Germany, Belgium, Holland, Sweden and Denmark large quantities of salted and smoked geese for winter provision.

Our Illustration.

We present our readers this week with cuts representing four of the animals that took sweepstake premiums at the recent Fat Stock Show in Chicago. "Lady Aberdeen 3d" who won the sweepstakes for best cow of any breed, was calved in 1875, and had a calf at three years old. She was a Shorthorn and was owned by the Canada West Stock Association of Brantford, Ont., and was sold during the Fair to go to Detroit for Christmas beef. She was 1873 days old and weighed 1375 pounds. Her girth at heart was 7 feet ¼ an inch and at flank 8 feet and 1 inch.

"McMullen" the winner of the sweepstakes for three years old and under four, and also the grand sweepstakes for the best beef animal in show, was a grade Shorthorn owned by Mr. J. D. Gilliett. The same steer also took the gold medal offered by the *Farmers' Review* of Chicago for the best steer or cow at the show. He was 1237 days old and weighed 2095 pounds. His heart girth was 8 feet 2½ inches, flank girth 8 feet 1¼ inches and the length of carcass 7 feet 5 inches. At the shoulder he stood 5 feet and one half inch from the ground.

"Major" who was awarded the first premium in the class for grade steers one year old and under two, a grade Shorthorn and also Sweepstakes was bred and owned by J. H. Potts & Son. He is a remarkably handsome, fine bred steer, and well matured for his age. The committee said in their report that he could only be improved from a butcher's standpoint, by continued liberal feeding and skillful handling. He was well proportioned throughout. He was 719 days old and weighed 1565 pounds, his gain being 2.17 pounds per day on an average. He girthed at the heart 7 feet 1⅛ inches and at the flank 7 feet 3¼ inches; length of carcass 6 feet 8¾ inches.

In the sweepstake class for steers two years old and under three, the first premium was awarded to David Grant's grade Shorthorn "Echerd." This steer was 880 days old and weighed 1500 pounds. His girth at heart was 7 feet 1¼ inches, and at flank 7 feet 1¾ inches; length of carcass 6 feet 8¾ inches.

Communications.

For the Maine Farmer.

Beautify the Farm.

No one thing adds more to the attractions and value of a farm, than shade and fruit-trees. We have farms in Maine which arrest the attention and admiration of every one, because of the number, variety and beauty of the trees; in towns, too, which otherwise would be dreary places to live in. Suppose a highway passes through two farms which join, and are located alike. The owner of one of the farms has set shade trees on each side of the road as far as his land extends; the other farmer has no trees. Let the soil of these two farms receive the same improvement—the buildings as generally valuable—and will these farms be judged of equal worth? What do travelers say? What do men in search of farms say? Suppose both farms are for sale, which would be preferred? How much difference in price would a man of taste be willing to make on account of the trees?

A cultured family seeking a new home, would pay at least $300 more for the farm with trees. To them a refreshing shade in hot weather is an important matter, and to have the birds chanting their sweet notes through spring and summer, is among the rare pleasures of a short life. Trees are long-lived and handed down to the third and fourth generation. Nothing engraves itself on the memory more than trees under which we have played in our childhood.

The first things the young man and woman look at as they approach the old home on a visit, are the trees in front of the house. These elms and maples are more to them than all the forests of the world.

Fruit trees are also both beautiful and valuable. Every farmer may have them. The cost is not beyond his reach. There should be a fair sized orchard, and besides a tree set in every corner, by house, barn, shed, or well, and arranged with as much taste and order as possible. The little children will name them while they are playing beneath their shade, and in after years same time drinking in health and happiness.

After these children grow up they may travel over sea and land, and it they are so fortunate as to meet again at the old homestead, William will go and point out his tree which he named "Red-Cheek;" Thomas will say, "There is my dear old Pug-Nose;" Florence, "there is my darling Russet" and so on. And they will do this with as much zest and accuracy as if they had but just packed their trunks to leave home. It would be comparatively easy to set thousands of miles of our country roads with trees, and it would be well to set some fruit trees by the roadside for travelers, and let it be understood that they had a right to help themselves. If all the roads in the State of Maine were set out with trees which shade and fruit trees, the value of real estate would be increased more than a million of dollars, and very few men need put out a dollar in cash to accomplish the whole work. Two or three days' work each year by the people, would bring about a wonderful change in the thing.

I wish to say a few words in relation to the surroundings of many of our houses and barns. Of all the dismal and dreary places on earth, deliver me from a dreary farmhouse which so many people call "Home!" Not a shade-tree to be seen about the premises; bars for a front gate; cow-yard close to the door; manure heaps lie exposed to the sun and rain, bleaching and steaming up into the lungs of all who go in or out of the house; food for fowls is thrown down and carried into the house on the feet; pig-pens are hard up against the house, furnishing their effluvium; the house is destitute of paint, and the clapboards are started and coming off in different places. Is it any wonder boys and girls see nothing attractive in such a home, and that they all declaim against *farming?* Is it any wonder they get sick of home, and leave it as soon as they can get away?

No good reason exists why the country door-yard should not be one of the most tasteful and attractive of places; but nowhere is carelessness and slovenliness more apparent than in many door-yards. The woodpile is thrown up against the kitchen; heaps of old bones, broken bricks, ashes, cast-away axe and hoe-handles, rusty tinware, broken crockery, old hats and rags, boot-legs and rubbers, broken glass and chips are scattered all about. Used up tools occupy various positions, and look as if they had been tumbled where they lie in a hurry, and had not been touched for twenty-five years. Some look *very old* indeed; wheels and hubs of old carts, pieces of harness and old iron mixed all together. The fences around the premises are of all imaginable kinds; a part are refuse pickets with the tops broken off, and frequent omissions to let a cow through; then a piece of board fence with no two boards alike in width or length, then a few slabs, then a remnant of some former elegant fence is set up to fill a gap. The gate hinges are broken and the gates are leaning against the fence.

Rank weeds, thistles and burdocks grow up between the spokes of old wheels, and the teeth of abandoned horse and hand rakes; piles of boards used to patch fences and sheds lie about in confusion.

Scenes of door-yards like this may be found without much searching. The owner says he has not time to attend to it, but will straighten it all up some rainy day. That rainy day never comes, so that farmer lives and dies with his door-yard full of all sorts of rubbish. When he dies the neighbors are obliged to have a clearing-up time in his door-yard before the funeral.

Is it any marvel that his sons leave early one of the most useful, important and reliable pursuits, to help swell the crowd of our large cities in which they can hope to earn little more than their board and clothes?

B. DODGE.

Centre Lebanon.

Farmers' Institutes have been appointed as follows: At So. Paris Grange Hall, in connection with Paris Grange, Tuesday, Dec. 27. Subjects, forenoon, Growing of Sweet Corn for Canning; afternoon, Prerequisites to Success in Dairying; evening, lecture by G. M. Whitaker, editor of Southbridge, Mass., Journal on "Little Things." Good music, a good dinner, and a good time are among the attractions of the occasion. Also another will be held at Saco Municipal Court Room, Thursday, Dec. 29, with an attractive programme.

G.

SWEEPSTAKES PRIZE WINNERS AT THE CHICAGO FAT STOCK SHOW.

For the Maine Farmer.

Notes from Washington County.

Danforth is a thriving town; several new buildings have been erected the past season. I found a good home with E. Morse, who has been a subscriber to the FARMER for over forty years. J. M. Dakin, Jackson Brook, raised 300 head of cabbage on four square rods of land. I shall expect to see an article in the FARMER another season on cabbage raising from him. In Waite the FARMER agent always finds a good home with W. Thomas, who keeps the hotel; he has long been a subscriber to the FARMER. Prettily located is the place, situated at the head of the St. Croix and Penobscot R. R. Large quantities of freight go by steamer from here to Grand Lake Stream where is found the largest tannery in the State. Eastport has fifteen sardine factories; they employ about 1000 hands. J. M. Bell, Prescott, has an ivy which nearly covers the ceiling of a room; it has fifteen branches all from one stalk, and the whole measures 500 feet. Among the large farmers in Machias are S. Burnham and N. T. Smith. Jonesboro has taken a fresh start; large quantities of granite have been shipped the past season, and quite a lot of building has been done. E. J. Nash, Addison, has a pair of four year old Durham steers that girt 7 feet 3 and 6 inches. They will be sent to Harrington next season. All persons going to Cherryfield will find a good house and be well provided for at the Cherryfield House. B. McGouldric, the proprietor, is a pleasant gentleman and a regular subscriber to the FARMER. J. T. Allen, Centerville, is one of the first farmers in that place. He has been farming only four years. This year he raised 175 bushels of potatoes and 30 bushels of wheat. A large amount of lumbering is being done on the Machias river this winter. Wages are very good, a few men getting as high as $28 per month. The McReary crew of Northfield employ sixty men, seven yoke of oxen and nine span of horses. D. Howe & Son, Cooper, raised 900 bushels of potatoes. B. Lincoln, Dennysville, raised 105 bushels of barley on 2½ acres of land. The Leighton & Co. organ, manufactured at W. Pembroke, is a first class instrument in every respect. R. J. Leighton is the traveling agent. Those expecting to purchase organs will do well to communicate with this company. I spent a pleasant dinner hour with G. W. Hersey, Pembroke; he has 17 hens and a crower of the Plymouth Rock breed; they are as good as can be found anywhere. I found a good home with N. Reynolds, who is 87 years old, reads without glasses and does his own chores. The new cotton factory at Milltown, St. Stephen's, is about completed. Farmers in Washington county have made marked improvement in the agricultural line during the past two years.

A. H. T.

Merinos in Fairfield.

I lately visited the flocks of Merinos in Fairfield Centre of C. A. Fuller and Elisha Lawrence. Mr. Fuller now has 125 sheep, one-half of which are registered, including his recent importation from Vermont, which consisted of twenty ewes and five rams, selected from the breeding establishments of A. E. Fuller, Promfret, Vermont, J. H. Hazen, West Hartford, and N. Cushing, Woodstock, the latter the most noted of them is the ram, Garfield, purchased at a very high figure, winner of the first prize at the New England Fair. He was pronounced by A. E. Perkins and A. E. Fuller of Pomfret, the best ram that ever went to Maine. They would not even except the $1000 ram purchased by Col. S. W. Tinkham of Anson. Garfield has served the present season 75 ewes at one dollar per head. Among the number who have used him, I noticed the names of L. N. Butler, J. Hilton of Starks, Brown & Hilton, Anson, Frank Tobey, Fairfield, &c. Among the ewes I noticed 10 yearlings, which will weigh about 125 lbs apiece, uniform in length of wool, good size and shape, in lamb to the ram Garfield; they are for sale, price $15 per head. He has several choice ram lambs selected from the flocks of Vermont breeders. Mr. Lawrence has a choice flock, part of which are registered. He is a half owner in the ram Garfield. I noticed some choice ram lambs.

SUBSCRIBER.

Correspondents' Notes and Queries.

Last spring I took a barrel of bones, broke them into small pieces, mixed them with hard wood ashes, and put them into a barrel, putting in a layer of ashes, then a layer of bones, and then ashes, and so on until the barrel was full. I was told that by keeping them moist the bone would dissolve by fall, but they fail to do so. I was in doubt at the time, but decided to try it. Now what I would like to know is, can I put anything into them that will pulverize them by spring, and will they be of any benefit as a top dressing on grass land, to sow broadcast and harrow in with oats, or to put into the hill with corn? Please inform me through the MAINE FARMER.

Cambridge. SUBSCRIBER.

If the ashes were good as represented and of sufficient quantity, in all probability the bones will be softened by spring so they will readily pulverize. The addition of fresh ashes would aid in the work. Nothing is better as a top dressing for grass lands, and pulverized bones and ashes are also beneficial to hoed crops.

The members of the Androscoggin Agricultural and Horticultural Society are hereby notified that their annual meeting will be held in Lewiston in the common council room on Saturday, Jan. 7, 1882, at 10 A. M. for the following purposes, viz: 1st, To hear report of the Treasurer for the past year. 2d, To see what measures shall be taken in regard to our future cattle shows, exhibition and fairs. 3d, To make any changes in the by-laws as may be deemed necessary. 4th. To see if the Society will make the annual assesament of one dollar on each member for the ensuing year. 5th, To choose a board of officers for the ensuing year. 6th, To act on such other business as may come before said meeting.

W. R. WRIGHT, *Sec'y.*

Lewiston, Dec. 15, 1881.

Will you give me description in your paper of a burglar proof bee-house, one that is not very costly? W. H. C.

Hampden.

Will Mr. Jerrard please answer the above question? ED.

For the Maine Farmer.

Cleanings.

We can see it in no other light, and we firmly believe that the only road to practical, permanent farm improvement in the New England States, lies through more attention to the grass crop. This if truer of New England, is equally true of all that great Northern belt of natural grass States, of the great central belt of grazing, fruit, and cereal States, and especially true of that equally great zone of Southern cotton, tobacco, and corn States. Grass for forage, grass for market, grass for green manuring, and grass everywhere. In the broad, practical sense here used we would include in the term "grass," all forage and leguminous plants cultivated for form, or beneficial purposes, and all that is known to the botany of the world as useful for feed, forage and fertilizing purposes, to a degree that would be paying of culture, or profitable in the climate. Sheep and stock husbandry are good, but cannot be wholly relied upon to build up and keep up the fertility of the farm. The soil seems to re-cuperate where green crops are grown and plowed in as the animal system does under food and sleep. The tiny blades and leaflets are constantly drawing from the air those saving gaseous particles which otherwise would not become fixed and stored in the soil for future use. Their roots penetrate, permeate and pulverize the sand grains, helping unlock their treasures of plant growth. The decay and fermentation of green plants in the soil still further aids the process.

Forage crops of a special character like oats, rye, millet, Hungarian grass, corn, Lucerne, Alfalfa, or whatever gives a large and profitable yield of succulent and nutritious food, can hardly be cultivated by farmers of any section in too large quantities. In States south of the winter-feeding limit they are positively necessary for all kinds of stock and especially for the working teams, the plains of Texas, the valleys of the mountains, and the cane brakes of the seaboard, may furnish exceptions for cows or young stock, but special forage must at all seasons be provided for the teams. In a season of severe drouth more especially, here at the North is their value seen and felt pecuniarily; no milkman, dairyman, or cheesemaker, can for a single season ignore the importance of forage crops as part of his business except at a loss sharply felt. It is only on these farms where this special, partial soiling is practiced, that we find the greatest amounts of manure made, saved, and applied, and the greatest rates of improvement going forward. It is within the reach of all and one of the greatest aids to farm improving and and farm paying.

One of the beneficial effects of land improvement and not the least in the nature of its worth and its effect on the world at large, is that parallel improvement that keeps pace in the improver. While land is being reclaimed, man will be renovated. Increased knowledge will enlarge and quicken his mind, expand his field of vision, develop the sphere of his thought, and move to better action. His powers will strengthen and his conceptions be nobler, purer, nearer perfection. It cultivates energy, decision and purpose of character, and inculcates method. It teaches him the great lesson that he is to be the master of his lands, the improver of his soil, the architect of his fortune. It shows him the need of depending upon himself and the value or worthlessness of expedients. It shows him that the soil, the season, the stock, the seed, the work, the crop, are plastic materials to be made and moulded, to be bent and directed by his own hands, and influenced by his power and his action. Energy and well balanced action is all the difference between success and failure, competence or poverty. No occupation can be satisfactory unless it brings pecuniary success. No labor can be pleasant that brings not adequate reward. No farming can long exist or prevail that is not based on soil improvement. No State can upgrow, outreach or strike deep the roots of agricultural prosperity without permanent soil improvement. Land may be good, but it can always be made artificially better.

Very few are aware of the revolution made in gathering the hay harvest made by the invention and use of the mower and use of the mower and horse rake. The grass of our farms is now harvested in half the time, often less, than before. The tedder and horse fork are the next two labor-saving implements that go toward shortening the time and lightening the labor of the hay harvest. Fields where long lines of brawny mowers swung the old hand scythe for weeks, are now harvested by the same number of hands with improved machinery in about as many days. The effect of this abridgement of the haying time serves to enable the farmer to cut it all at nearer the right time than ever before possible. The hay harvest formerly the most laborious, tedious, and costly of that of the whole farm routine, has been made one of the lightest and most pleasant by yoking to its accomplishment the muscular strength of the horse, and binding to its service the mechanical powers. The hay is not only much more expediciously got, but it is got in a great deal better shape. Advantage can be taken of weather, and fear of flood, and wind, and rain, is much removed. It is only by taking a long and thorough retrospective view that we can fully realize the grand and magnificent improvements that advanced agriculture has made in this direction.

HUSK MATS. A good, respectable-looking husk mat is not an unsightly object, and I wish every housekeeper knew what a world of scrubbing and wiping of floors they saved, that they might have one. One bushel basket and a boiler full of husks is sufficient to braid a large mat. If you have boys or girls, it will be just fun for them to braid one in the evening; but if, like myself, you have neither, it would pay you to take the time and do it yourself. Have ready a tea-kettle full of hot water, and turn on to the boiler of husks. Begin a common three-strand braid, and as you bring over a strand place about three husks on, leaving the large ends of the husks up. When enough is braided for a mat, sew firmly with twine in any shape you choose—long, round, or oval. Then sprinkle warm water on upper side. Run a fork through the husks, splitting the ends into a mass of little, curly fibers; then with the shears trim off evenly. This can all be done in one evening by a good worker. I braid enough in the fall to last me the year round.

EX.

For the Maine Farmer.

The Grange.

Officers of National Grange.

MASTER—J. J. Woodman, of Mich.
OVERSEER—Put Darden, of Miss.
LECTURER—Henry Eshbaugh, of Mo.
STEWARD—A. J. Vaughan, of Miss.
ASST. STEWARD—Wm. Sims, of Kan.
CHAPLAIN—S. H. Ellis, of Ohio.
TREASURER—F. M. McDowell, of N. Y.
SECRETARY—W. M. Ireland, of Washington, D. C.
GATE-KEEPER—O. Dinwiddle, of Ind.
CERES—Mrs. J. J. Woodman, of Mich.
POMONA—Mrs. Put Darden, of Miss.
FLORA—Mrs. I. W. Nicholson, of N. J.
LADY ASST. STEWARD—Mrs. Wm. Sims, of Kansas.
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE—D. Wyatt Aiken, of South Carolina; Henry James, of Ind.; Wm. G. Wayne, of N. Y.

Officers of Dominion Grange, Canada.

MASTER—W. M. Blair, Truro. Nova Scotia.
SECRETARY—W. Pemberton, Fonthill, Ont.

Officers of Maine State Grange.

MASTER—D. H. Thing, Mt. Vernon.
OVERSEER—G. C. Pratt, So. Paris.
LECTURER—Richard Nutter, Dexter.
STEWARD—Geo. C. Taylor, Fairfield.
ASST. STEWARD—O. A. Bowman, No. Fairfield.
CHAPLAIN—E. E. Parkhurst, Presque Isle.
TREASURER—Chas. H. Cobb, Ea. Poland.
SECRETARY—J. M. Jackson, Lewiston.
GATE-KEEPER—J. M. Douglass, Cornish.
CERES—Mrs. J. O. Keys, No. Jay.
POMONA—Mrs J. M. Jackson, Lewiston.
FLORA—Mrs. F. W. Ritchie, Monroe.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

Nelson Ham, Lewiston.
Wm. H. Moody, Liberty.
T. B. Hunter, Strong.
Ivory Lord, Saco.

DEPUTIES—At Large, A. K. Walker, Nealey's Corner; Ivory Lord, Saco; Androscoggin, Nelson Ham, Lewiston; L. B. Thompson, North Livermore; Aroostook, Chas. E. Gilman, Houlton; E. E. Parkhurst, Maysville Centre; Cumberland, Chas. Davis, Sebago; C. A. Haskell, Windham Centre; Franklin, Loren Adams, East Wilton; C. V. Pinkham, North Chesterville; Hancock, A. H. Whitmore; Kennebec, Hiram Cornforth, West Waterville; J. B. Ripley, Pittston; Knox, William Clark, So. Thomaston; Lincoln, A. J Partridge, Whitefield; Oxford, C. W. Everson, Norway; A. B. Walker, Peru; Penobscot, C. M Freshman, Veazie; Mathan Averill, Lee; Piscataquis, H. L. Leland, Foxcroft; Sagadahoc, D. R. Wylie, West Bath; Somerset, J. S. McIntire, Solon; S. H. Goodwin, St. Albans; Waldo, M. B. Hunt, Belmont; Chas. Bellows, Freedom; York, Horace Harmon, Buxton Centre; G. M. Douglas, Cornish.

Officers for 1882.

The following officers for 1882 have been elected by the Granges named:

ALBION GRANGE.—M., Amasa Bachelder; O., Charles S. Billings; L., Dennis G. Mudgett; S., Lendal L. Taylor; A. S., Otis Meader; Chap., Ora O. Crosby; Treas., Sylvanus Davis; Sec., Marshall B. Hammond; G. K., Bradstreet Fuller; Ceres, Hannah F. Meader; Pomona, Mrs. Sarah A. Littlefield; Flora, Melissa A. Meader; L. A. S., Mrs. Martha K. Hammond.

EASTERN STAR, HAMPDEN.—M., E. H. Gregory; O., H. E. Bartlett; L., Mrs. Emma P. Harding; S., Wilber Sawyer, A. S., Everett T. Knowles; Chap., A. K. Walker; Treas., Daniel Rowell; Sec., Hillman Smith; G. K., Laroy Rowell; Ceres, Mrs. Lizzie Gregory; Pomona, Mrs. Louvie Bartlett; Flora, Miss Olive Whitney; L. A. S., Miss Nettie Clements.

NORTHFIELD GRANGE.—M., C. A. Metcalf; O., R. W. Cunningham; L., A. C. True; S., J. W. Tucker; A. S., E. N. Pinkham; Chap., W. Otis; Treas., G. H. Palmer; Sec., W. S. True; G. K., E. P. True; Ceres, Mrs. J. A. Cunningham; Pomona, Mrs. A. W. Woodbury; Flora, Miss T. E. Cunningham; L. A. S., Miss P. True.

BAKEMAN GRANGE, CARROLL.—M., Hiram Stevens; O., A. E. Lowell; L., J. A. Larrabee; S., O. S. Lindsey; Asst. S., H. E. Stevens; C., Calvin Lane; T., Orrington Cushman; S., Albion Gates; G. K., Jacob Gardner; C., Mrs. M. T. Cooper; P., Miss B. O. Farrar; F., Miss Leona Lamb; L. A. S., C. P. Abbott.

MT. CUTLER GRANGE, HIRAM.—M., E. L. Allen; O., E. Wentworth; S., R. N. Lowell; A. S., M. G. Day; L., J. S. Moulton; C., E. C. Allen; T., Elias Gould; S., Olliver Allen; G. K., J. F. Moulton; C., Mrs. E. Wentworth; P., S. O. Lowell; F., May Googins; L. A. S., Mrs. G. W. Osgood; Organist, Miss B. J. Allen.

BINGHAM GRANGE.—M., J. D. Hill; O., A. Burke; L., T. F. Houghton; S., C. F. Hill; A. S., S. A. Smith; C., Mrs. E. B. Cleveland; T., Warren Holbrook; S., Mrs. C. F. Hill; G. K., D. S. Moore; P., Mrs. R. Pierce; F., Mrs. J. D. Hill; C., Mrs. E. R. Baker; L. A. S., Miss Carrie Andrews.

Notes.

The programme of the meeting of Waldo County Grange for January is as follows: Lecture by F. N. Ritchie. Essay by Sister Smith. Election of officers. Topics. Duties of officers of subordinate granges; discussion to be opened by J. W. Wallace. The next meeting of the County Council will be held with Silver Harvest Grange, Waldo, Tuesday, Jan. 3, at ten o'clock, A. M.

Mt. Cutler Grange, Hiram, had a picnic gathering and election Dec. 10. This grange is in good working condition. A special committee was raised to look after the educational interests of members and their children.

At the regular meeting of Waldo County Grange in December the resolution: "Resolved that the Patrons of Waldo Co. ought to organize a Fair, to be held annually at some central place in the county," was opened by Mr. Durham of Monroe, and discussed by some of the best farmers in the county—a vote being taken—the Council were nearly unanimous in favor of the resolution—and a committee was appointed—one from each grange in the county, to select a location for the Fair and perfect a plan for the same as follows: Northern Light, E. Jones; Morning Light, T. Durham; Star of Progress, M. S. Stiles; Harvest Moon, S. N. Tilton; Silver Harvest, G. Roberts; Comet, T. D. Smart; Seven Star, P. Heald; Farmers Pride, D. A. Wadlin; Honesty, D. G. Bowen; Sebasticook, C. L. Whitten; Mystic, M. B. Hunt; Union Harvest, H. P. Parker; Dirigo, D. B. Johnson; South Branch, R. F. Clifford; Island, Austin Trim.

Winter Feeding and Digestion.

The following is an abstract of a paper read before the meeting of the Massachusetts Board of Agriculture, which is now in winter session at Bridgewater, by Dr. Bowen of Connecticut, we find in the American *Cultivator:*

He remarked that for generations fertility had been a general waste. In times past farms had everywhere been running down in condition, but now a change for the better was noticeable. Science was shedding its light upon the practice of agriculture. The farmer of the future will be the man who can give a good and sufficient reason for everything he does. Plants and animals stand upon the same level in some respects, particularly so in the matter of food. The system of plant-life is to accumulate that upon which they feed, while that of animal is to waste that which they obtain. The waste of animals depends upon their condition, the working oxen wastes more than the steer in the stall, being fed for the market; the race-horse wastes more that the dray horse and the deer more than the bear. Young animals require more food than older ones, and animals are developed as to size and form in some degree from the food they consume. The evolution of heat is not confined to animals; plants share with them to some extent the same power. The temperature of animals is higher in the Arctic regions than in the temperate or torrid zones. Only one kind of food is perfect in its character and that is milk. It contains a large amount of water which is requisite for holding the elements in solution. Fat is an essential requisite in the animal economy. It tends to round up the form and improve its appearance. It produces heat so essential in the animal economy. Common salt is an important factor in the production of milk, so also is phosphate of soda, the latter producing chloric acid, a very important element in the gastric juice of the animal. Salt in limited quantities should be regularly fed.

The organs of digestion in the animal are the teeth and the stomach. The œsophagus is a canal to conduct the food into the different stomachs. Horses and pigs have simple stomachs, while those of sheep and cattle are compound in their nature. Gastric acid is found only in the fourth stomach of the ruminant; this latter constitutes the rennet in the calf. The action of the gastric juice is strictly chemical. Chyle formed from the food by the action of the gastric juice is taken up by the lacteals. The colon of the horse is larger in proportion than that of any other animal. Heavy draughts of water should never be given to the horse after a full feed, because the water forces itself through the intestines and celon, frequently producing scours. Milk stock should be fed all they will eat twice a day, while the horse should be fed three times per day. Horses are frequently dyspeptic. Pigs should be fed three or four times a day, and in the care of young pigs five times. Cows should be watered immediately after feeding. Grain should be fed, if at all, after the ration of hay. Where more than two quarts of grain are fed at a time it should be mixed with the hay before being placed before the cow, yet all grain so fed does not assist in forming a cud, but passes at once into the first stomach. Farmers can easily ruin the digestive organs of their domestic animals through improper feeding. Such animals are the creatures of habit, and the best results are secured only through regularity in feeding. The wealth of the New England farmer must consist in his live stock, which demands the same care and vigilance as other varieties of stock, whether of bank, railroad, mine or factory.

Proportion of Parts.

Messrs. Lawes and Gilbert of London, as the result of numerous experiments, reached the following conclusions in regard to the composition of oxen, sheep, and pigs, and of their increase while fattening. These experiments were tried and recorded at their Rothamstead farm several years ago:

1. In proportion to their weight, oxen contain considerable more of stomachs and contents than sheep, and sheep considerably more than pigs; pigs considerably more of intestines and contents than sheep, and sheep more than oxen. Oxen, sheep, and pigs have nearly equal proportions of the other internal organs, namely, hearts and aorta, lungs and windpipe, liver, gall-bladder and contents, pancreas, and milt or spleen, taken together. They have also nearly the same proportion of blood, but the pigs rather the least.

2. In proportion to their weight, sheep yield rather more internal loose fat than oxen, and pigs very much less than either.

3. As oxen, sheep, and pigs mature and fatten, the internal organs increase in actual weight; but they diminish in proportion to the weight of the animal.

4. Of the internal offal parts, the loose fat alone increases both in actual weight and in proportion to the weight of the body as the animals mature and fatten.

5. As oxen, sheep, and pigs mature and fatten, the total "offal" increases in actual weight, but diminishes in proportion to the weight of body; the "carcasses" increase both in actual weight and in proportion to actual weight of the body.

6. Well bred and moderately fattened oxen should yield 28 to 60 per cent carcass in fasted live weight; excessively fat oxen may yield from 65 to 70 per cent. Moderately fattened sheep (short) should yield about 58 per cent carcass in fasted live weight; excessively fat sheep may yield 64 per cent or more. Moderately fat pigs killed for fresh

Maine Farmer.

Augusta, December 22, 1881.

TERMS OF THE MAINE FARMER.

$2.00 IN ADVANCE; OR $2.50 IF NOT PAID WITHIN THREE MONTHS OF DATE OF SUBSCRIPTION.

☞ All payments made by subscribers will be credited on the yellow slips attached to their papers. The printed date in connection with the subscriber's name will show the time to which he has paid, and will constitute, in all cases, a valid receipt for money remitted by him.

☞ A subscriber desiring to change his post office direction, or to discontinue his paper, must communicate to us the *name of the office to which it has previously been sent*, otherwise we shall be unable to comply with his request.

☞ Postage Free to all Subscribers.

Collectors' Notices.

Mr. C. S. Ayer, Agent for the Farmer, will call upon our subscribers in Androscoggin and Oxford counties during December.

The Glad Christmas Tide.

As we approach the Christmas Tide and the day celebrated throughout Christendom as the anniversary of the birth of the Christ child, the holy and sacred influences of that event come stealing in upon the soul like the music of long ago. The evening song that greeted the watching shepherds more than eighteen hundred years ago, on the plains of Bethlehem, as their eyes were turned towards the starry heavens, has echoed round the world, and become the song of the ages. Christmas is a festival of joy and peace. There should not be a particle of sadness about it. To the believing heart, whose hopes are not bounded by the material sky, the harmonies of heaven rise above the clash and din of earth; the round of busy cares and exacting duties are put aside, and diviner thoughts enter and take full possession of the heart. Has the season just past brought with it anxious duties, burdens that at times were ready to crush us, cares that disturbed the otherwise calm repose of the soul, we turn for rest and comfort and peace to the lowly manger of Bethlehem and to the sweet influences of the angelic song. We throw aside the bustling competition of worldly interests, and make room for "the peaceful Prince of earth and heaven."

This is especially the festal season for children, who welcome with rejoicing the coming of the much loved patron saint; and many of us who are older, who discover the advent of grey hairs, sigh for if not sing for the return of our childhood days—"Backward, turn backward, O Time, in your flight." To the children everything looks bright and beautiful upon such days. If they are slightly disappointed, do not receive all their bright hopes painted, their natures are too fresh and buoyant to remain long in shadow. Childhood is not exacting, and at little cost parents can plant bright, happy memories in their children's lives at this season—memories that the rude touch of time will not blight, that will live after all that is material of father and mother has crumbled to common dust.

We rejoice in Christmas in that it developes the habit of giving. We are all more or less encased in an armor of selfishness, and everything that assaults us between the joints of that armor, and leads us to think of some one besides ourselves, is a blessing indeed, and naturally flows from the contemplation of Him who was supremely unselfish, who, although He was rich, for our sakes became poor, that we, through his poverty might become rich, sealing his devotion to the cause of humanity by giving his life "a ransom for many."

In this Christmas time we feel it specially blessed to both give and receive. How precious to each one is the little token of affection—precious because we know love prompted the gift. How deeply to be pitied are the natures so sordid they cannot reciprocate these little pleasures; so selfish they cannot give. They are to be commiserated far more than the very poor—for the poor may have love in the heart—who cannot afford anything of the kind.

So to all the readers and patrons of the old Farmer we extend the greetings of the season, and the wish that Christmas, celebrating the coming into the world of One whose life was an example, whose word is law, and whose death is the hope of the human race, may come to them as a day of gifts, of domestic cheer, of friendly remembrance, of spiritual gladness.

The Clayton-Bulwer Treaty. The despatches of the Secretary of State to Minister Lowell, instructing him to seek the consent of the British government to the modification of the Clayton-Bulwer treaty, have been published in full. It is a statement of our claim as a nation to precedence in this hemisphere from the standpoint of the Monroe doctrine. The reasons given for asking the abrogation of the treaty are in substance these: First, that the control of the Isthmus transit is necessary to to our safety—the proposed canal being practically a part of our line, and the possibility of having the shortest way to our Pacific coast closed to us in the case of war being something not to be tolerated; Second, that the sole guarantee of the United States is a stronger assurance of the neutrality of the canal than would be found in the joint guarantee of European powers, inasmuch as the outbreak of a war in Europe would annul any such joint guarantee of all nations; and Third, that the continuance of the existing treaty so binds the two nations concerned in it, that either would be helpless against combinations for the control of the canal that might be made by other nations. The correspondence is received with general favor in this country. The comments of the London press are unfavorable. The Times says the letter of the law is on the side of England, and that "Mr. Blaine must remember that freedom of passage between the two oceans can in no possible event become an exclusively American right. The whole world has an interest in the maintenance of the free use of great highways." The Daily News declares Mr. Blaine's claim to treat the Panama canal as a purely American question an astounding assumption of authority and pronounces the despatch neither courteous nor considerate.

A Maine Man Honored. The President has nominated and the Senate confirmed, Hon. Timothy O. Howe of Wisconsin, as Postmaster General. Mr. Howe was born in Livermore, in this State, Feb. 7, 1816; he was educated at Kent's Hill Seminary, was admitted to the bar in 1839; settled in Readfield, and in 1845 was elected to the State Legislature, and in that year moved to Wisconsin. He was elected as circuit judge of that state in 1850 and held the office until 1855, when he resigned. In 1861 he was elected a U. S. Senator from Wisconsin for the year ending 1867. In 1867 he was re-elected to the Senate for the term ending 1873, and again for the term ending 1879.

Ozone. We have received from subscribers several letters of inquiry concerning the merits or demerits of the article called "Ozone," which has been advertised in our columns. We received the advertisement from a responsible agency in Cincinnati, O., with which we had considerable business, and as it seemed to be fully endorsed by responsible parties in that city, we admitted it to our columns. Since then several newspapers of high standing have pronounced some of the declarations of the advertisement as unqualifiedly false; and in the meantime we have suspended the advertisement and written to headquarters for information on the subject.

Gen. W. S. Tilton of Togus, was elected first Vice President of the National Trotting Association, last week, at New York. This speaks volumes for his efficiency upon that board, as it is composed of many able men.

The unprecedented mild weather has seriously impeded lumbering operations. We notice that on the Dead River, arrangements have been made for extensive operations.

Maine State Grange.

Annual Meeting of the Maine Patrons of Husbandry.

The Maine State Grange of the Patrons of Husbandry opened in annual session at Meonian Hall in Augusta, Tuesday morning at ten o'clock. A considerable number of Patrons arrived on the trains Monday, and found comfortable quarters at the Cony House and Hotel North. Those who arrived on the forenoon train Monday had a good opportunity to visit the State House and other points of interest in the city, which they improved and heartily enjoyed. The day for a winter one was exceptionally fine, the mercury being above the freezing point from early morn. They are a jolly set, these grangers, and the burdens of life do not seem to rest as heavily upon them as upon the dwellers in cities. They come fresh from the farms where they live upon the fruits of their own labor and enjoy life as only farmers and their families can. The ladies in particular are pictures of health and contentment such as rural life, when it is lived as it can and ought to be, always brings. The grange has accomplished as much for farmers' wives and daughters as it has for themselves and their sons; it has brought them into closer social relations with each other; it takes them away from and gives them brief respites from home toil and care, and renders life more enjoyable. The order is very dear to the farmers' wives and daughters of Maine and of the country.

The Grange was called to order at half past ten o'clock by State Master D. H Thing, and the State Grange was opened in due form. A committee on credentials was appointed consisting of Messrs. Jackson, Cobb and Barker.

The Committee on Order of Business was announced as follows: Messrs. Moody, Rowell and Bradford. The subordinate granges in the State entitled to representation in the State Grange were then called, and the masters present responded as they were called. The committee on credentials reported the whole number of granges represented, 65, twenty-five by masters and their wives, and forty without their wives, making one hundred and five in all. Added to these were many patrons not delegates, making the whole number present nearly two hundred, an unusually large number for the first day.

The Committee on Order of Business through W. H. Moody chairman, made a partial report which was accepted. The committee also reported in favor of the appointment of the following committees: On Constitutional and By-law Amendments; Finance; Good of the Order; Co-operation; Claims and Grievances; Agriculture; Fees and Dues; Officers' Salaries; Education, Printing; Officers' Reports; Dormant Granges; Resolutions and Mutual Aid.

Tuesday afternoon the Reports of the various officers were made, and State Master Thing read his annual address. It may be remarked here that as the work of the Maine State Grange for the ensuing year is to be largely the work of the National Grange, Mr. Thing's remarks were largely made up of extracts from the annual address of the master of the National Grange. The following is what he said concerning agriculture and the State College:

"I hope the Grange will, in suitable manner, indicate its appreciation of the good work being done by the Board of Agriculture, and that the cordial relations now existing between that organization and this, may continue. I earnestly advise all Patrons in the vicinity of its meetings to avail themselves of the privileges afforded them, and thus co-operate for the improvement and elevation of that science which sustains all others.

I confidently expect great improvement in the general management of the State College so far as its influence upon the agricultural interests of our State are concerned, in the near future. It is expected that it will become more and more of a farm, what it is in name—an Agricultural College. I hope farmers may never rest from their efforts until an experiment station is established to work in harmony with it.

Let us not forget that we are to live by Practical Agriculture, and let us seek to inform ourselves, by all means at our disposal, as to how we may best improve our circumstances and increase our usefulness."

The following committees were announced:

On Constitutional Amendments—D. M. Hall, C. E. Gilman, O. G. Keyes, Mrs Hall and Keyes.
On Finance—The Executive Committee.
On Good of the Order—G. A. Hall, Hiram Cornforth, A. Moulton, T. B. Hunter, with Mrs. Ritchie and Bowell.
On Cooperation—H. Stevens, C. V. Pinkham, H. H. Snell, J. O. Keyes, G. C. Pratt, Mrs. Whitmore and Stone.
On Claims and Grievances—F. W. Ritchie, H. O. Nickerson, W. M. Thomes, Mrs. Hunter and Pratt.
On Fees and Dues—W. H. Moody, A. Gibbs, J. L. Martin, Mrs. Fowler and Worcester.
On Officers' Salaries—I. McIntire, W. M. Hayden, J. S. Ripley, Mrs. Soule and Pinkham.
On Dormant Granges—M. B. Hunt, R. Nutter, E. H. Gregory, C. V. Pinkham, O. Towne, T. H. Sprague, Mrs. Bowman and Meader.
On Mutual Aid and Fire Insurance—F. A. Allen, I. M. Everett, J. H. Hamm and S. S. Smith, C. M. Freeman, Mrs. Jackson and Thompson.
On Education—W. B. Lapham, Z. A. Gilbert, F. Robie, N. Ham, O. T. Fellows, Mrs. Moody, Bellows, J. O. Keyes, H. O. Nickerson, Gracie Bowen and Jose.
On Agriculture—S. B. Gunnison, S. S. Smith, E. P. Thompson, C. H. Metcalf, Crosby Fowler, John Scott, H. S. Smith.
Printing—J. M. Jackson, Ivory Lord, N. Ham.
Officers Reports and Dormant Granges—I. Sturtevent, I. C. Doe, O. D. Potter, Mrs. C. W. Potter, Thing and Ritchie.
Resolutions—S. M. Freeman, S. Bell, I. H. Daggett, Crockett, Mrs. Gregory, Bartlett and Prince.
Special Committee on Sweet Corn Industry—S. C. Watson, B. F. Carter, C. H. Cobb, S. S. Smith, T. H. Sprague.

Wednesday afternoon the following principal officers were elected for the ensuing year:

Master—Fred Roble, Gorham.
Overseer—E. H. Gregory, Hampden.
Lecturer—C. M. Freeman, Peazie.
Steward—T. H. Sprague, Topsham.
Assistant do.—A. H. Whitmore, Verona.
Chapisin—Wm. Parsons, New Portland.
Treasurer—S. S. Smith, Norway.
Secretary—D. M. Hall, Bangor.

Maine Central Railroad. The annual meeting of the stockholders of the Maine Central Railroad, was held in this city, Wednesday. The old board of directors was chosen, which subsequently made choice of Geo. E. B. Jackson, President, and Josiah H. Drummond, Clerk.

The report of the directors shows that the gross transportation earnings of the last two years have increased very largely over those of the two years immediately preceding, as will appear from a comparison of the earnings for these periods:

Year ending Sept. 30th,		
" " " "	1878.....	$1,483,770.69
" " " "	1879.....	1,465,459.28
" " " "	1880.....	1,661,779 61
" " " "	1881.....	1,877,078.98

There are now 105.6 miles of steel rails in the track, and the urgent necessity that the main line should all be of steel is so apparent that it has been determined by the directors that it must be so laid within the next two years. A purchase of 4,500 tons of steel for delivery in 1882 has been made, and about the same quantity in 1883 will be sufficient to complete the laying of the main line with steel. The machine shops of the company are unsuited to doing economically the large amount of repairs required by a road of the extent of the Maine Central, and steps must be taken during the coming year looking to their renewal and permanent location. The report of the Treasurer shows a gain the past year in gross earnings of about one hundred and fifty-nine thousand dollars, which, after deducting operating expenses, interest and rents, leaves in his hands in cash, $15,553.53. During the past year there has been added to the equipment of the road: 2 locomotives, 2 postal cars, 50 box freight cars, 50 platform "32 feet long," from Portland Co.'s works; 6 passenger cars, from Wason Car Works, Springfield; 1 passenger car, 3 baggage cars, from company's shop; total number of passengers carried, 760,744; receipts for same, $772,833.45; total number of tons of freight carried, 515,946; total receipts for same, $1,003,833.71; 2,977 tons of steel rails have been laid, equal to 32 miles of track; iron rails repaired and re-laid in 20½ miles of track; 79,000 new sleepers were laid in track; 70,000 cubic yards of gravel were placed under 46¼ miles of track; 2 9-10 miles of new side tracks were built.

A quantity of liquor was libelled at a certain term of the Supreme Court in Maine, and condemned to be spilled, as it deserved to be. A number of persons who stood around were deprecating the waste—"too bad to have so much good liquor thrown away." "Yes," responded a bystander, with watering mouth, "when it is so good in sickness." "Yes, indeed," replied a prominent member of the court, "good in sickness, but *excellent in wellness!*"

The President will spend the Christmas holidays in New York with his family. He will leave Washington Thursday and return Saturday the 31st. His first public reception will be held at the White House Monday, January 2, when he will be assisted by the wives of the Cabinet officers.

Wednesday of last week was the 83d anniversary of the death of George Washington, who was first in war, first in peace, and the last to get a monument.

Our State Fisheries.

A Few Facts Gleaned from the Fish Commissioner's Report.

We are indebted to Hon. E. M. Stillwell for the following items of interest from the report of the Fish Commissioners for 1881:

The run of salmon commenced unusually early this year and was remarkable for the large size of the fish. As to numbers, the run was the smallest of the past three years, but the largest for the previous ten or twelve years. They seemed to have made their way up to their fastnesses and were not taken at the usual fishing places, owing to the very high stage of the water and the very early movement of the fish. It is thought that we may look for a very large run of smolt this and the coming year, as a result of the undisturbed spawning of the salmon. There has been a distribution of over half a million salmon in the Penobscot, Kennebec, Androscoggin, Saco, Presumpscot and Machias rivers.

For this year's work, the contribution to the Bucksport and Orland Salmon works was $2000; dividend of salmon eggs, 1,080,000, all of which are to be distributed and hatched in the above mentioned rivers. The contributions to the Orland works were as follows: By Maine, $2000; dividend of eggs, 1,080,000. By Massachusetts, $500; dividend of eggs, 270,000. By Connecticut, $300; dividend of eggs, 162,000. By the United States, $1757; dividend of eggs, 950,000. Total, money, $4,557; eggs, 2,462,000. The Penobscot river is the only river on the Atlantic coast of the United States from which a supply of sea salmon eggs can be obtained for propagation.

The Commissioner reports they have but 60,000 landlocked salmon eggs from a $300 contribution. There are two great hatcheries in the State owned by the United States and associated States, one at Orland and the other at Grand Lake Stream. The contributions to the Grand Lake Stream fund were as follows: Maine, $300; dividend, 60,000 eggs. New Hampshire, $250; dividend 50,000 eggs. Massachusetts, $500; dividend 100,000 eggs. Connecticut, $500; dividend, 100,000. United States, $1450; dividend, 290,000 eggs. Total money $3000; total eggs, 600,000.

During this year 2,000,000 shad were given by Prof. Baird, of the U. S. Commission of Fisheries, which were sent in charge of Prof. Ellis. These fish were dividend between the Penobscot and Kennebec rivers, 1,000,000 having been turned into the Sebasticook at Waterville, and 1,000,000 into the Mattawamkeag, near its junction with the Penobscot.

The following ponds have been stocked with black bass this season: Trip pond, in Minot; Gardiner pond, in Wiscasset; Gun Point Ice Company's pond at Harpswell; Hosmer pond, in Rockport; Kezar ponds and Heald and Cushman ponds, in Lovell, and Little Pushaw pond, in Corinth.

Eighty alewives have been put into the pond at Merrill's Mills, on the Kenduskeag stream, as as experiment. These fish will find their way out to sea, but in returning to spawn they can of course ascend no farther than Morse's Mills. Much interest is felt in the result of the experiment. A large fishway has been constructed at the new dam at Calais, superintended by Mr. Harry Buck, of Bucksport. Other fishways for alewives, of minor importance, have been constructed in various parts of the State.

The salmon fisheries of Maine are of the highest importance to the State, and are worthy all reasonable legislation. Their money value cannot be justly estimated at present, but that they are well worth all that has been expended upon them no one, we think, will deny. The Commissioners have displayed commendable zeal in their work, the effect of which is now very apparent, inasmuch as in localities where a few years ago salmon were a rare curiosity many hundreds of these delicious fish are now obtained every season.

A Smart Old Lady. "Aunt Mary Cook" of Casco, rather carries off the palm as a smart old lady. She is in her 83d year; during the cold weather of last winter she attended meeting twice a week, walking a quarter of a mile each way, besides going to Windham to the Monthly meeting. The next season she spun and wove over a hundred yards of cloth, knit 10 pairs of men's socks and 12 pairs of double mittens. In the spring she lays out her work for each day, and if she is going to have company, or wishes to visit her neighbors, she turns the wheel a little faster, so as to gain time. She is not obliged to labor, but works just for the pure love of it. She is looking the whole care of her room and does a great many chores about the house. The lady belongs to the old stock of our grandmothers; many of them have passed away; the music of the spinning wheel is silent; but like "Aunt Mary," a few of the grand old ladies still linger to bless the present generation.

New Books. We have received, through J. F. Pierce, Water street, the musical volume entitled "Beauties of Sacred Song," published by Oliver Ditson & Co., Boston. Those who have examined it closely say that nothing of the kind published last years will compare with it. Pierce has also a new book for boys, by Elijah Kellog, illustrated, entitled "The unseen Hand, or James Renfew and his Boy Helpers," published by Lee & Shepard, Boston.

James R. Osgood & Co., Boston, have published a Hiram College Memorial volume entitled "Garfield and Education." This book is not only a life of the lamented President, but connects him with the various educational movements of his time. It has been the aim to make a Garfield book, in the sense of his being its author instead of its subject.

The Liquor Traffic. Mr. Dingley of Maine, introduced into the House Monday a bill providing for a commission of five persons, to be appointed by the President to investigate the alcoholic liquor traffic in its relations to the general welfare of the people. He also presented the memorials of the National Temperance Society and of 20,000 Good Templars of Maine for the appointment of such a commission. The bills and memorials were referred to the special committee on the alcoholic liquor traffic.

Trout. *Rochester, Dec. 15, '81.* Mr. Editor: The N. Y. State Fish Commission will send any parties in the United States from 300 to 500 eggs of the California Mountain trout for experiment in fish culture, on receipt of 50 cents to pay for the package. This species are much easier raised than the Eastern brook trout. Applications must be made before March 1st, 1882. Address Seth Green, Rochester, N. Y.

The Senate finance committee, Tuesday, agreed to report favorably on the nomination of Thomas C. Acton to be assistant treasurer at New York vice Hillhouse resigned. The Senate judiciary committee agreed to report favorably on the nomination of Judge Gray of Massachusetts, to be associate justice of the Supreme Court.

The Maine State Prison seems to be prospering under the present management, if the following is any indication: Slaughtered at Maine State Prison, Dec. 12th, one Poland China hog weighing 674 lbs. The hog department is under the supervison of John Miller, who knows how to do it.

The Leavenworth Times reports that many people who were carried away with the mining craze and drifted out to Colorado are turning to their old Kansas homes with lots of experience. Some of our Maine people have obtained "lots of experience" without leaving home.

The Dirigo Business College and Telegraph Institute in this city, will be closed for the Christmas recess next week, and will open Jan'y 2d. This is an old and reliable school and is just what it claims to be, a thoroughly practical school.

We notice that a plaster cast has been taken of Guiteau's head. A cast with the head off, is what the people want.

Hon. Samuel S. Fifield, recently elected Governor of Wisconsin, was a Bangor boy.

For the Maine Farmer.

Trip South and West—No. 2.

Arriving in Washington on the afternoon of Oct. 26th, we found ourselves in the Baltimore and Potomac Depot, where the lamentable shot was fired, which has filled the hearts of the American people with sorrow, and other nations with sympathy, from July to the present time. The spot was pointed out to us where the late President stood, when the wretch Guiteau aimed at his life, with what has proved, after months of cruel suffering, to have been a deadly aim. By this wicked act of a worthless creature, the nation has been deprived of the services of a Chief Magistrate, whose administration, so far as human foresight could anticipate, promised to be perhaps the most successful and beneficent this country has ever had.

We proceeded to a boarding house which had been engaged for us, where we found excellent accommodations. One of the ladies of our party had friends in the city, some of whom called in the evening and the time passed very agreeably.

Washington City.

The site of Washington city was selected by Gen. Washington himself. The plan of the city was prepared by a French engineer named L'Enfant. The general plan marked out by him has been followed, with some variations. The city is about four and a half miles by two and a half in extent, including some large spaces not yet built upon. The ground is somewhat uneven, the capitol being on the highest elevation, about 72 feet above the level of the river. The Potomac, about a mile wide, forms the southeast boundary of the city, and the East Branch the northeast boundary. Georgetown lies to the southwest, and the State of Maryland to the west and north. The population in 1860 was about 60,000; in 1870, about 100,000; and now is more than 150,000.

I have no hesitation in saying to the reader who has never seen Washington, that it is the most beautiful city in the United States, and one of the most beautiful in the world. It is becoming more charming and magnificent from year to year. I was surprised at the changes and improvements made in the last five years. Besides the large public expenditures on streets, parks and buildings, wealthy individuals are every year erecting costly private residences, and beautifying the grounds around them. Washington has been called a city of "magnificent distances." It is to be hoped that it may always be entitled to that description, so far as regards the breadth of its sidewalks, streets and avenues. It is one of the distinguishing beauties and incomparable advantages of the city. Instead of the cramped and crooked thoroughfares that mark and mar London and most European cities, Washington has ample room to move and breathe in.

We spent the forenoon of the 27th in taking a drive about the city. The weather was like a fine September day in Maine. We rode through the broad avenues, and viewed the palatial public buildings, and the handsome private residences and the numerous public parks and squares, where the grass and foliage were as green as in June, and beds and borders of flowers were in full bloom. The statues of Washington, Jefferson, Jackson, Lincoln, Gen. Thomas, Gen. McPherson and others, most of them equestrian, adorn the parks and squares. The scene was lovely and peaceful and delightful to the beholder. But what a different sight was presented, when, a few short years ago, the streets of Washington were thronged with the serried ranks of armed men! Bret Harte described

"The grand review
In Washington's choicest avenue;
Two hundred thousand men in blue.
I heard the sound of their trampling feet,
The bugle blast and the drum's quick beat,
And the cheers of the throngs who came to greet."

But war, with all its pomp and parade, has passed away, and peace smiles upon the city, and lights up the landscape.

We stopped at the White House, still so fruitful of sad associations, but were admitted only into the vestibule. The house was in the hands of workmen making repairs. It seems that it is needful to keep it closed, to prevent the relic hunters carrying away everything that could be stolen. They even tear off bits of damask curtains, and break off corners of marble mantels. Not having been admitted, we of course came away without any relics.

The President's house is built of freestone, painted white, has a front of 170 feet, is 86 feet in width, and two stories in height. It has 13 Ionic columns on the different fronts. In its day, it was an elegant as well as spacious building. Its style is now regarded as rather old-fashioned. It stands in the midst of a park, on a slight elevation of land, about 40 feet above the level of the river, and about a mile and a half from the capitol. But for the flat and marshy land between the White House and the river, the location would not be objectionable. The malaria rising from this marsh in the hot season, compels the Presidents, with their families, to remove in summer to some more healthy place of residence. Congress would pause in its party strife and Presidential making, long enough to make a liberal appropriation to fill up the flats, not only the White House, but all that part of Washington would be benefitted by the expenditure.

We passed in our drive the magnificent buildings occupied by the Treasury Department, the General Post office, and the new one not yet completed, intended for the State Department. The Treasury is a stone building 600 feet long and 200 wide, and contains about 500 rooms. Some of the ornamental columns on its front are of Maine granite. The Post Office is of white marble, about 200 feet by 100, and contains 200 rooms. Both are lofty and elegant structures. The Interior Department, or Patent Office, covers an entire square, and is one of the most spacious and handsome of the public offices. The War and Navy Departments are plain brick buildings west of the White House.

Amongst other fine private residences we saw, was that of B. F. Butler, by some called Castle Butler. Others are in process of erection in different parts of the city, and amongst them that of Secretary Blaine. Besides dwellings, other buildings are being constructed, and everywhere evidences are to be witnessed of growth and progress.

Smithsonian Institute.

This is one of the most splendid structures in Washington. It is a castellated building, built of red sand stone, and is 450 feet long and 140 wide. It has nine towers from 75 to 150 feet high. About fifty years ago James Smithson of England, bequeathed about half a million dollars to found an institution at Washington for the diffusion of knowledge. With this money this building was erected, leaving a fund invested which produces an ample income for its support.

It contains a museum of natural history 200 feet long, a gallery for painting and statuary 120 feet long, a library fitted to contain 100,000 volumes, and more than half filled already, a complete laboratory, &c. We spent some time examining the objects of natural history, antiquities, and other curious things. There were a number of models of ancient villages found in ruins in Arizona and New Mexico, which were very interesting.

The U. S. Agricultural building is near the Smithsonian, and here we found innumerable specimens of the fruits, plants, grains, birds, animals, fishes, wood, cotton, flax, silk, and other products of the United States, including a section of a red wood tree nearly 12 feet in diameter. In the conservatory was a wonderful variety of rare tropical plants, such as palms, bananas, climbing plants, candle trees, trumpet trees, olives, figs, Japan pepper, &c.

Preparations are making to erect a large building for a National Museum in the same vicinity, for the exhibition of native and foreign products and manufactures. Several of the foreign exhibits made at the Centennial five years ago were donated to the United States after the exposition was over.

Washington Monument.

Between the Smithsonian Institute and the river stands the Washington Monument, partly built. It is a plain square obelisk of white marble, 55 feet in diameter at the base, and intended to be over 500 feet high, and about 25 feet square at the summit. Thus far about half the height has been reached, but work is going on for its completion. In the base are to be arched rooms, 17 feet high, for the reception of relics. Here are placed memorial stones furnished by each State, with suitable inscriptions. When completed it will be a noble national monument. But it is hardly creditable to the country that it has been so long in building. H. K. B.

Santa Claus at Kinsman's! If you have not already inspected the elegant display of holiday goods at Kinsman's, cor. Water and Bridge Sts., do not delay, but hasten thyself thence. Such a variety. Such loads of pretty things. Call early. Every thing to suit all people's tastes, from 5 cents up to fifteen dollars.

Kennebec County News.

The annual meeting of the Maine Industrial School for girls was held last week in Hallowell. Seventeen girls have been admitted during the past year, making in all since the organization of the school one hundred and thirty. Homes have been procured for ninety-six girls during the past seven years, and most of those have made records creditable to themselves and the school. The great requirement of the institution is a new school building. A benevolent lady, Mrs. Mary Erskine of South China, has recently donated the sum of one thousand dollars toward a new "building fund," and others have indicated a purpose to largely increase this fund; so that with liberal aid from the State, it is hoped a new building may be erected at an early day. The old officers of the institution were re-elected to serve for the ensuing year.——The schooner Gen. Howard, Capt. Henderson, was the last vessel to make a trip into the Kennebec. Saturday, 10th, she arrived in Gardiner with a cargo of whiting for A. Sampson & Sons of Hallowell, and was unable to come further on account of the ice.——There is soon to be a reunion at Waterville of the employes of the Maine Central Railroad, and a most enjoyable occasion is expected.——Dec 12th, Hon. David Garland of Winslow, and Miranda P., daughter of Col. John Parsons, formerly of Farmingfield, celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of their marriage. The occasion brought together a large circle of their children and grand children to enjoy the event with them.——The members of the Methodist church in Hallowell, Rev. E. Martin, pastor, are to be congratulated on the completion of the improvements on their church, in which the frescoing stands prominent. The work includes heavy cornices, a large centre-piece, and a handsomely-lettered tablet in the rear of the pulpit. The renovated audience room will be occupied for the first time next Sunday, as we understand.——Saturday forenoon Reuben Heselton and three French-Canadians, while working upon a staging, 44 feet from the ground, on Haley's ice house in South Gardiner, were thrown to the ground by the staging giving way. Mr. Heselton sustained an injury of the spine by striking on his back upon an ice-run, and died Sunday morning. Two of the Frenchmen had dislocated shoulders, while the third one escaped with a broken arm.——Bradstreet Brothers, lumber dealers of South Gardiner, propose to build two steamers, auxiliary propellers, rigged with masts, to ply between Gardiner and New York, carrying lumber one way and coal the other. Their capacity will be 35,000 feet of lumber and about 500 tons of coal.——A. M. Spear, Esq., of Hallowell, addressed the Gardiner Reform Club last Sunday. When ten years shall have elapsed, it is estimated that about 375 signatures will be the result of the year's work, and the majority of these have kept their pledge. The tenth anniversary of the existence of this club will occur Jan. 19th, 1882, and it will be celebraced by some sort of exercises.——It is reported that R. B. Dunn of Waterville, is fully determined to erect a cotton mill in W. Waterville the coming season. If the town will make concession by the way of nominal taxation, he will erect a mill of 30,000 spindles.——Anthony Stevens of Guilford, died Tuesday morning, Dec. 13th, at the age of 60 years. He was born in Litchfield, and was one of a family of fifteen children of which only four now remain.——Rev. C. C. Mason still lingers on his sick bed at his home in Hallowell. There has been very little change in his condition for the last month.——A store was opened at Broadcaves farm belonging to Ira D. Sturgis, at Riverside, last week. It contains about 100 tons, and the ensilage comes out very nicely.——The Elmwood house at Waterville, has been purchased by Ex-Gov. Coburn for Dr. Fitzgerald. Mr. Coburn pays about $16,000, being the claims of the bank and the college, while Dr. Fitzgerald assumes certain other claims against the estate.

The Assassin's Trial. The trial of Guiteau still drags its slow length along. Guiteau was more impatient on Thursday than during any day of the trial. The first two witnesses had met Guiteau in his travels, and the latter accorded them the usual treatment, calling them liars, infernal whelps, etc. He was very severe upon District Attorney Corkhill for introducing such testimony, and promised that official that God Almighty would smash him up and drop him down into the lower regions. Mrs. Dunmore, the former wife of the prisoner, took the stand, being called by the government, but was not allowed to testify because she could not produce the official record that she was the divorced wife of the prisoner. Rev. Rush R. Shippen, pastor of All Souls' church, Washington, testified that he had boarded at the same place with Guiteau from April last until the day before the President's assassination; had frequent conversations with him; was chatty, quick and nervous, but never detected anything to indicate insanity, and never entertained the slightest suspicion of it in connection with the prisoner. Dr. Noble Young, physician of the jail where the prisoner has been confined, testified. Witness was asked if he considered the prisoner a sane man, and replied: "A perfectly sane man, sir, and as bright, quick and intelligent a man as you would see in a summer's day. Not the slightest indication of insanity about him. A little impatient of restraint at times, a little nervous as men in his position would naturally be, but perfectly sane. J. M. Justice, lawyer at Logansport, Ind., met the prisoner in 1878. Prisoner was selling a little book, "The Life of Moody"—Guiteau here interrupted. "You are mixing me up with some one else, sir." The witness continued, but was again interrupted by Guiteau, who shouted, "Stop that here; can you identify me as the man?" Witness—I think I can. Guiteau—Can you swear to it? Witness—Yes, I can. Guiteau—"Well, you are a liar, sir,—a miserable liar! That's the best way to dispose of you, sir."

The testimony of Gen. Joseph S. Reynolds was especially damaging to the prisoner. He is a Chicago lawyer, and visited Guiteau in jail 12 days after the examination, and the prisoner had spoken to him of the affair as "the assassination." The General had made a memorandum of it. He used the precise word, and did not refer in the least to any divine inspiration. This testimony provoked Guiteau to a towering rage. He shouted: "This man came to me as an old friend from Chicago, when really he was nothing but a spy employed by Corkhill. I want to thunder this to the American people, to let them understand what this man's character is. (Turning to Col. Corkhill) This is your work, Corkhill, and God Almighty will damn you for it. You have deceived all through, and stolen my thoughts and betrayed them. You was a pretty smart detective, wasn't you, General; you'll probably get more business in this line now." On Friday, Mrs. Grant, formerly of Maine, and Kennebec County, testified that Guiteau had boarded with her in Washington, and she had never seen any evidence of insanity. Guiteau's former wife, Mrs. Dunmire, also testified. Mr. Scoville objected to much of her testimony and her direct examination was cut short. It was developed that Guiteau had taken an active part in the campaign of Horace Greeley. The cross-examination related to several interviews purporting to have occurred between the witness and reporters while en route to Washington, wherein she stated that Guiteau was insane, the witness denying every such utterance. Before she left the stand Guiteau made a little speech, in which he said he had the highest respect for Mrs. Dunmire. "She is married now and has children," he said again; and he wished her all happiness in every walk of life. He repeatedly showed impatience and pressed Mr. Scoville to cut the examination short, and seemed relieved when she left the stand. Guiteau said: "I admit my marriage and my divorce. I don't care for that. I can get married again anywhere outside of New York State, and for that matter, in New York too. Under the new law there, if a man lives a strictly virtuous life for six years after being divorced, the courts will let him marry again. Why, I could get married in New York to-morrow, if I wanted to."

On Monday, it was announced in Court, that the wife of one of the jurors (Mr. Hobbs) had died since the last adjournment. The juror was permitted to go home to pay respects to the dead, and the court adjourned until Wednesday.

The opinion is gaining ground in Washington that the jury will bring in a square verdict of guilty. The insane theory has been overthrown again and again. Guiteau is a low, cunning, artful, moral monstrosity. He knows how to answer questions sharply, but is an intense egotist and a most dangerous fellow.

Christmas week! and lots of goods, choice fancy, toilet, useful and ornamental articles. All "the desirable and correct" things for presents at Partridge's Drug Store opposite the Farmer Office! selling, too, at prices within the reach of the most moderate purse. No one is beggared who buys Christmas presents of Partridge Bros.

President Arthur has nominated Benjamin H. Brewster of Pennsylvania, Attorney General, and J. Bancroft Davis, Assistant Secretary of State, and both nominations have been confirmed. Brewster promises to go for the Star-routes with a sharp stick.

City News.

A few weeks since, the body of Mrs. Carroll, wife of the late Martin Carroll, formerly of this city, was brought here for burial; and on Monday last the remains of her son, George Stanley Carroll, aged some thirty, were also brought here for burial. He died in Boston from the effects of an accident.——Capt. S. W. Lane of this city, is suggested as a candidate for the position of Department Commander, at the Department convention of the Grand Army, to be held in Gardiner in a few weeks. This would be a fitting election. Capt. Lane went to the front as Sergeant Major of the 11th Maine Regiment, and was promoted to a captaincy by President Lincoln. He was for ten years Secretary of the Maine Senate, and is one of the ablest parliamentary scholars in Maine.——The children's noses are flattened against the window panes of the stores on Water street, looking at the elegant Christmas gifts. The goods are beautiful, the prices quite reasonable, and the purchasers numerous. Several of our advertisers offer tempting inducements.——The Universalists netted nearly $300 from their Fair last week, besides giving the people their money's worth in the entertainment.——The "Unity Club" and the "Murray Club" furnish this winter intellectual food to a large membership. They meet on alternate Monday evenings.——Mr. Leslie C. Cornish of Winslow, who is practicing law with Baker & Baker of this city, has recently been admitted to practice in the circuit court of the United States.——The Supreme Court at Providence, R. I., have dissolved the injunction restraining the sale of the Sprague estate. We know of nothing now to hinder the transfer of the property here to the new proprietors, whom, we hear, are anxious to get hold of it.——The *Gospel Banner*, with its banner nailed to the mast-head, on the first of January will begin the forty-seventh year of its existence. It has a large and paying list, and is prospering under the able editorship and proprietorship of Rev. Dr. Quinby.——Those who wish to purchase elegant furs for Christmas gifts—and nothing could be more beautiful and appropriate, for cold weather must be in reserve for us—should call at Mathews & Upham's, corner of Bridge and Water streets. They have a seasonable stock, also, of hats, trunks and bags. Their store is the favorite resort for these goods.——Rev. John W. Hanson, who will be remembered as pastor of the Winthrop street Universalist church for one year, has accepted a call to the pastorate of the Universalist church in Biddeford. Mr. Hinds has for several years been at the West.——Our people have had the privilege of welcoming to the city this week many of the representatives of the sturdy yeomanry of the State, who have gathered here to hold conventions together in the Grange. No body or class of citizens can produce better specimens of manhood. "The farmer feedeth all," and besides that gives all the privilege of imitating their manliness and devotion to duty and the best interests of society.——Another change has taken place in an old business establishment on Water street. Mr. Frank W. Kinsman who has been in the druggist's business here some thirty years or more, has sold his apothecary store, corner of Water and Bridge streets, and the Fuller drug store, to his son, Fred G. Kinsman. After a long and honorable career in his chosen profession, Mr. Kinsman retires from the apothecary business to devote his entire time to the manufacture and sale of Adamson's Cough Balsam, in which he has a fortune and the public a grand remedy.——Miss Julia E. Elwin of this city, who has consecrated her life to the mission cause, and who chosen Burmah as the field of her work, arrived at Rangoon on the 1st of November,

ems of General News.

Bliss' bill for attending President
d, is $25,000.
Reed of Maine, is to be chairman
Judiciary committee in the National

half the funds necessary to the erec-
the Garfield monument have been
d.
cordage manufactory of John T.
& Co., Philadelphia, was destroyed
, Wednesday. Loss $200,000.
receipts at the Crawford House,
Mountains, the past season were
ghty-five thousand dollars.
ral hundred tenant farmers in Ireland,
ed Mr. Parnell's farm Thursday, and
med all necessary work thereon.
dent Benyon of the Pacific Bank, is
d dying of paralysis of the brain
by over anxiety. His physicians
iven him up.
temperance crusade at St. Albans,
as culminated in closing all the hotels.
oprietors of the houses say they do
elf defence.
rrect list of the victims of the Ring
e fire, Vienna, has been issued by the
Total number 794; only 144 have
dentified.
oway, the defaulting cashier of the
keepsie Bank, has been insane for
t six months, and checks, cash and
ant letters have been found in all
f out the way places.
nesday morning a party of masked
tered the jail at Austin, Texas, and
the jailer to give up the keys to the
Richard Jennings, who killed John
nvelt, the night before, without
ation. Jennings was hung.
nnant of the Sioux who did not sur-
with Sitting Bull, came in under
Bull, and Noneck and are encamped
Fort Assiniboine, Mon. They are
nd will have to be fed this winter,
ise they will starve.
Ninth Massachusetts Regiment, after
nvestigation of its conduct at Rich-
Va., has been disciplined by the
ry discharge of twenty of its en-
nen, and the prohibition of its public
ance until next summer.
reported another mine assassination
s been discovered at the Russian
e palace at Gachina, and that
officers have been arrested on sus-
of complicity, in St. Petersburg.
ndred persons have been arrested in
ki quarter.
etay Blaine has been invited by the
ttee to deliver an eulogy on Prest-
arfield at the Congressional memorial
s. The report is that he declines the
Orations on deceased Presidents
een delivered before Congress by
uincy Adams and George Bancroft.
rn butchers must look out for sharp
dition during the coming winter, as
d pork will be sent from the West
quantities and prepared for retail
will enable grocers and provision
to keep it on hand and sell the
t cuts for several cents less per
than is now asked.
ibal Hamlin, the U. S. Minister to
on Tuesday, presented his creden-
King Alfonzo, and assured his
r of the abiding friendship of the
he was proud to represent. He said
d he his aim to strengthen those
s. King Alfonzo acknowledged the
y sentiments which he said were re-
ted.
official report on the theatre disaster
nna, states that immediately after
aster it had been reported to the
that all had left safely, and they
herefore laboring under a misappre-
n. The report expresses the con-
that the audience died speedily
uffocation.
nesday night seven masked burglars
the night policeman at St. Clair,
carried him to the door of the First
al Bank, and, under threats of death,
d him to unlock the doors. He did
ve a key, and they subsequently
entrance by the rear window and
hree unsuccessful attempts to blow
e safe, keeping the policeman bound
gged.
ndon special says the Governor of
has issued a proclamation announc-
t the Arctic voyaging ship Jeannette
with all well and her equipments
The governor at his own expense
an extraordinary searching party
nt out to hunt up traces of the Jean-
hen he learned that fears were enter-
for her and the vessel has been found.
e general assembly at Richmond,
uesday, the full vote for United
Senator was cast in both houses, re-
in the election of H. H. Riddle-
Readjuster candidate, who received
ll party votes. Democrats voted
for Senator Johnston, the present
ent. In the Senate the Straightout
can vote was cast for Gen. W. C.
am.
rnor Neal of Idaho says with refer-
Mormonism: "The government
right at it now and cut it out by
ts. If not, in the end it will have
t down at the point of the bayonet.
they think they can defy the
States, and I have seen a mob of
Mormons in Utah march by the fed-
art when it was in session, and hoot
ion of its authority."
e twenty-one cities in Massachusetts,
have voted on the question of
Malden, one of the two new cities,
ng. Eight voted against license:
lle, Newton, Brockton, Haverhill,
ester, Fitchburg, Lynn and Law-
rt; and twelve for it: Boston, Wor-
Lowell, Cambridge, Fall River,
ce, New Bedford, Springfield, Taun-
lyoke, Chelsea and Salem.
e case of Megargee vs. the Mutual
surance Company of New York, the
ve returned a verdict for plaintiff in
of $16,875.18. It was claimed by
pany that Megargee failed to pay
mium on the day it was due, but two
er offered it. The company refused
t the company to restore his policy
000, and pending the action he died.
idow continued the suit, and the
now awarded her the full amount
with interest.
rnment Scout Gilson reports to
Pope that there will be an uprising
Utes and Navajoes in the spring,
l cause much trouble to white set-
the valleys. He says a junction of
ill be formed, probably at some
New Mexico. The Utes, who have
ced in Utah, have been freely fur-
with arms and provisions by the
s, who are affiliating with the
and giving them all the whiskey
n. Gilson is the oldest scout in
ice, and is considered thoroughly

igorous prosecutions instituted by
e of Pennsylvania have apparently
he fate of the graveyard insurance
es which have so long demoralized
te and put a premium upon murder.
thern Pennsylvania Mutual Relief
ion, of Hanover, York County, one
oneers of the graveyard associa-
as applied to the courts for leave to
and relinquish its charter. This
has issued policies to the enor-
nount of $30,000,000, and its books
at it has received over $500,000 in
assessments.
east-bound passenger train from El
Texas, on the Southern Pacific Rail-
as boarded when a short distance
at station Wednesday night, by a
train robbers, who entered the
Fargo & Co. car by means of a key
hey had in their possession. After
g Agent Barnard insensible and
he precaution to bind and gag him,
of the safe of $2,000 in cash and
n other valuables. When the train
Rogers' station it slowed up for a
nd the robbers jumped off and cut
e country into Mexico.
ews from Hungary shows that crime
lly on the increase. In the village
as, in the Banat, five men broke
farmer's residence, murdered the
his wife and four children, for the
of securing a small sum of money
er had hoarded up. Seven murder-
is case were arrested and impris-
at Komorn a woman clove her hus-
ead, killing him instantly, while he
ep, simply because she wished to
younger man. In Pesth a mur-
ho killed a poor widow in order to
small amount of money she had,
been sentenced to but twelve years'
ment. The country is overrun by
nd murderers.
bing the affecting farewells to the
rnalist, Colonel Forney, just before
ral, the Philadelphia *Record* says:
those who were early in taking
ve of the remains were General
General E. B. Hart and ex-Speaker
General Sickles looked for some
n the face of the dead, and then,
is crutches, he bent over the cas-
d the pallid brow, and remarked
ndertone to Mr. Randall, as he
away the tears: "We will soon be
, old fellow." General Hancock,
e in late, stood for some moments
ad of the casket, his eyes suffused
rs.

The Markets.

Brighton Cattle Market.

BOSTON, WEDNESDAY, Dec. 21.

Amount of stock at market: Cattle, 1131; sheep and lambs, 2000; swine, 17,-800; veals, 00; number of western cattle, 805; northern and eastern cattle, 325.

Prices of beef cattle per 100 lbs., live weight: Extra quality, $6 62½@7 50; first, $6 00@6 50—; second, $5 37½@5 75; third, $4 50—@5 25—; poorest grades of coarse oxen, bulls, etc., $3 12½@4 37½.

Brighton Hides—9c per lb.
Brighton Tallow—8c per lb.
Country Hides—7c per lb.
Country Tallow—5c per lb.
Calf Skins—12@12½c per lb.
Sheep and Lamb Skins 75c @$1 25 each.

SALES OF CATTLE.

By	Number.	Pr, per 100 lbs live wt.	Live wt.	Average weight.
E. Farrell	4	4 87½	L. W.	1200
C. Leavitt & Son	18	6 30	L. W.	1400
do	4	5 40	"	1425
do	4	5 75	"	1200
J. Stetson & Co.	7	5 40	"	1154
do	4	5 60	"	1027
A. N. Monroe	30	6 60	"	1320
do	35	5 25	"	1080
do	40	5 87½	"	1200
do	30	5 00	"	1230
do	20	5 37½	"	1180
do	33	5 90	"	1300
do	31	6 25	"	1350
do	35	6 00	"	1360
do	22	5 35	"	1090
do	41	6 00	"	1320
do	50	6 62½	"	1370

There was more activity in the market this week than there was one week ago. The quality of the Cattle in market from the West was of full as good grade, and prices realized for them about the same as those of our last quotations. Mr. Monroe had some very fine Christmas Cattle in Brighton Cattle Market, for which he was asking from 8@9c per lb live weight. Mr. N. E. Hollis sold eleven of them at a fancy price, which weighed 1930 lbs per bullock. The supply of Cattle in market, although light, was full as large as the demand required.

Working oxen—Sales of 1 pr girth 6ft 4in 2450, at $000; 1 pr girth 6 ft. 9 in, live weight 2800 lbs. $220; 1 pr girth 6 ft 7 in, live weight 3600 lbs. $110; 1 pr 6 ft 10 in live wt 2800 lbs, $125; 1 pr girth 6 ft 6 in live 3500 lbs. $110; 1 pr girth 6 ft 3 in, live weight 5100 lbs., $85.

Milch Cows—Extra $55@$75; ordinary $20@$50; springers $18@$65; farrow cows $13@$28 per head. We note sales of 22 milch Cows at $34 to $52 each; 11 Cows and springers at $35 to $50 each; 12 do at $35 to $60 each; 2 springer for $90; 2 do for $70.

Store Cattle—Yearlings $10@$14; two year olds $12@$28; three years olds $25@$47 each. Prices of small cattle depend much upon their value for beef.

Sheep and Lambs—The supply from the West and Maine has been light. Western Sheep and Lambs cost landed at Brighton from 5¼@6¼ per lb., live weight.

Swine—Fat Hogs—Prices 6¼@7 per lb live weight. Store Pigs sell dull at prices ranging from 7@10c per lb live weight

Watertown Cattle Market.

TUESDAY, Dec. 20.

BEEF CATTLE — Receipts 712 head; sales of Beef Cattle—choice at $8 75@9 25; extra at $8 00@8 50; first quality at $7 00@7 50; second quality at $6 00@6 50; third quality at $4 00@4 75.

STORE CATTLE—Working Oxen per pair at $100@170; milch cows and calves at $25@30; yearling $7@13; two years, $14@$25; three years, $20@45; farrow cows, $15@33; fancy cows $55@80.

SWINE — Western fat swine, live, 6¼@7c; Northern dressed hogs at 8¼c.

SHEEP AND LAMBS — Receipts 4,624 head; supply is heavy; sales of sheep in lots $3 00@5 50 each; extra $5 75@6 50; lambs 4¼@6¼; Veal calves 3@8.

Augusta City Market.

WEDNESDAY, Dec. 21.

APPLES—Green $2 25@2 75 per bbl.
BARLEY—60@65c.
BEANS—Pea beans $2 65@2 75; Yellow Eyes $2 00@2 25.
BUTTER—Good Butter sells for 23@25c.
CHEESE—New 12½@14c.
COTTON SEED MEAL—$1 90 per hundred.
EGGS—25@26c per dozen.
FLOUR—$8 00@10 50 per bbl.
GRAIN—Corn 88@90c; oats 50@55.
HAY—$12 00@16 00; pressed $18@20.
HONEY—Choice Aroostook honey 20@25 per pound.
HIDES AND SKINS—Hides 7@9c, dividing on 90 pounds; lamb skins 50@75c; calf skins 12c; deacons 25@35c; shearlings 15 @20c.
LIME AND CEMENT—Lime $1 25 per cask; cement $2 00.
LARD—12@12½c.
MEAL—Corn 85@85c; rye $1 15@1 25.
PRODUCE—Potatoes, 80@ 90 per bushel; onions $1 00@1 00 per bushel; cabbages $1.00 per bbl.
PROVISIONS—Clear salt pork 10½@11c; beef per side 7@8c; ham 10@13 —c; fowls 10@12c; lamb 6@8c; mutton 6@7c; spring chickens 15@17c; round hog 7½-@8c; sausages 12@14c: turkeys 14@17c.
SHORTS—$28@30 per ton.
SUPERPHOSPHATE—Sells at 2⅜@3c per lb. in packages, $40@50 per ton.
GROUND PLASTER—Sells at $5 50@6 00 per ton.
WOOL—Washed 30@34c; unwashed 25@ 26c.

Portland Market.

WEDNESDAY. Dec. 21.

APPLES — Evaporated, 15@17; dried Western, 6¼@7; do Eastern, 6¼@7; per bbl. 2 75@3 00; cooking, $1 25@1 50.
BUTTER—22@25c for choice family; Vermont 32@35c per lb.
BEANS—Pea $3 00@3 50; Yellow Eyes $2 35@2 50.
CHEESE—Me. and Vermont Factory 12½@14½c; skim cheese 7¼@8¼c.
COAL—Stove and Egg $6 50@7 00.
FLOUR—Superfine $5 75@6 25; Spring X and XX $7 25@7 75; Michigan Winter X and XX $7 75@8 00; Common Michigan, $7 00@7 25; St. Louis winter best $8 25 @8 50.
FISH—Cod Ship's $4 25@4 50; Shore $4 50 @4 75; Herring $4 00@5 00; Scaled per bx 22@28c; Mackerel per bbl. Shore No. 2 $9 00@10 00.
GRAIN—Corn, car lots 77c; bag lots 80c per bushel; oats 55c; fine feed $26 00@27 00 per ton; rye $1 30; shorts $28 00@30 00 per ton.
LARD—Per tierce 12@12½c per lb; per tub 12½@12½c; pail 13@13½c.
PROVISIONS—Beef side 6@6½ and 7@10c; mutton —@—c; chickens 13@15; fowl 10@12½; turkeys 15@17c; eggs 27@28c; potatoes 80@85 per bushel; Chicago extra beef $12 25@12 50; pork backs $21 50@20-75; clear $20 75@21 25; mess $19 50@20-00; hams 11½@12 per lb.

Bangor Produce Market.

WEDNESDAY, Dec. 21.

APPLES—Sweet, $1 75@2 25; cooking $1 75@2 50; Baldwin No. 1, $2 50@2 75.
BEANS—Yellow Eyes $2 10@2 20 per bush; Pea, hand picked, $2 50@2 75.
BUTTER—Best, 25@27c per lb; fair to good, 23@25c per lb.
EGGS—27c per doz.
GRAIN—Oats 43@45c per bush; corn 81c.
HAY—$14@17 per ton; pressed $15@18.
POTATOES—Best Early Rose, 75@80c. per bush. Whites 68@75
PROVISIONS—Pork, country clear 12c; western clear 11c per lb; chickens 12@14c; turkeys, 17c.

Chicago Cattle Market.

CHICAGO, Dec. 20.

Hogs—Receipts 32,000 head; shipments 3500; prices 5@10c lower and fairly active; common to good mixed at 5 65@6 00; heavy packing and shipping at 6 15@6 50; culls and grassers at 4 00@5 25.

Cattle—Receipts 3200 head; shipments 1200 head; generally unchanged; shipping weak; good to choice shipping 5 20@5 70 common to fair at 3 90@4 55.

Sheep—receipts 1500 head; shipments 1000 head; steady; medium to good 4 00@4 75; choice 5 00@5 50 and wanted.

New York Money Market.

NEW YORK, Dec. 20.

United States Stocks, 1881, (reg.)		100¾
" "	(coup.)	102¾
" New 5's (reg.)		114¾
" "	(coup.)	114¾
" New 4½'s (reg.)		117¾
" "	(coup.)	118¾
" New 4's (reg.)		117¾
" "	(coup.)	118¾
" Pacific 6's '95.		126

It is a foolish mistake to confound a remedy of merit with quick medicines. We have used Parker's Ginger Tonic with the happiest results for Dyspepsia, and Debility and know it to be a sterling health restorative.—*Times.*

BEATTY ORGANS AND PIANOS. We learn that Mayor Beatty of Washington, New Jersey, is receiving hundreds of orders for his Pianos and Organs for Christmas presents. We advise our readers to order early and avoid the rush. Read his advertisement.

Boston Market.

WEDNESDAY, Dec. 21.

FLOUR—We quote sales at $4 50@5 00 for Western Superfine; $5 50@6 00 for common extras; $5 75@6 50 for Minnesota extras, including choice baker's brands; winter wheats are selling at $6 25@$7 25 for Ohio, Indiana and Michigan, and $7 00@7 75 for Illinois and St. Louis; spring wheat patents are selling at $6 00@8 75, and winter wheats at $7 25@8 25 per bbl. Corn Meal has been selling at $3 20@3 25 per bbl. Rye Flour sells at $5 50@5 75 per bbl. In Oat Meal sales have been at $6 75@7 75 per bbl. for common and fancy Western.

GRAIN—Corn firm, and prices lower; we quote No. 2 and high mixed at 73@74c; steamer corn at 72@73c; Oats are in fair demand. The sales for No. 1 and extra white have been at 57@59c; No. 2 white at 56@56½c; No. 3 white at 53@53½c, and No. 2 mixed at 52@52½c per bushel. Shorts have been selling at $19 00@20 00, and Middlings at $22 50@25 per ton.

PROVISIONS—There is no change in pork with steady demand, with sales at $16 00@16 50 for prime; $18 00@19 00 for mess; and $20 00@21 50 for clear, including backs. Beef sells at $10 00@11 00 per bbl. for mess, $12 00@13 00 for extra mess, and $14 50@16 00 per bbl. for extra plate and family. Lard is dull. Sales at 11¾@12c per lb., for city and Western. Smoked Hams are selling at 11@12c per lb. as to quality.

PRODUCE—In butter sales, Western and Northern creameries have been at 35@40c for choice and 25@34c per lb. for fair and good; New York and Vermont dairy at 26 @33c for choice and 17@25c for fair and good; Western dairy packed at 23@30c for choice and 16@21c for fair and good; and Western ladle packed at 25@28c for choice and 16@20c for fair and good. Cheese is in demand. Sales of choice at 12½@13½c; fair to good at 11@12c and common and skim at 7@9c per lb. Eggs have been selling at 29@30c per doz. for Eastern Vermont and New York; 27@28c for Canada and P. E. Island, and 25@27c for Western. Potatoes are in good demand, and prices are steady. We quote Aroostook Rose at $1 05@1 10; Maine Central and Northern Rose at $1 00@1 05; Jacksons at 90@95c; Prollifics at 95c@$1 05; Peerless at $1 00@1 05 per bush. Onions have been selling at $2.25@2.50 per bbl. Green Apples are plenty and sales of choice have been at $2.50@2.75. In poultry there is a lack of common to choice turkeys and chickens have been at 10@16c; geese at 9@15c; ducks at 12@14c; and partridges at 70@80 per pair.

HAY—This article has been dull and prices are easier. We quote choice at $21 @$23 per ton for Northern and Eastern, but it is difficult to obtain over $22 for the best lots arriving. Ordinary grades range from $17@$20 per ton. Rye Straw has been selling at $18@$19 per ton and is dull.

Wool Market.

BOSTON, WEDNESDAY, DEC. 21.

WOOL — There is a better feeling for wool with a more active demand. Transactions for the week 2,500,000 pounds. The sales of Ohio and Pennsylvania fleeces have been at 42@43½c for X, and 43@45c for XX and XX and above; Michigan and Wisconsin fleeces have been sold at 41@42c pounds. Michigan and Ohio medium and No. 1 fleeces have sold at 45@48 per lb. The sales of unwashed include coarse and low at 18@22c, fine at 25@33c, and medium at 25@34c. per lb. Unmerchantable fleeces have been selling quite freely at 30@36c. as to quality. California Wool has been quiet. Combing and delaine fleeces have been quiet, and prices range from 46@50 per lb. for fine delaine and fine No. 1 combing, and unwashed combing at 35@38c. for coarse, and 36@38c. for medium. Pulled Wools have been in good demand with sales at 45@50c. for choice Eastern and Maine, and 34@40c. for common and good.

CONGRESS. In the Senate on Thursday, Mr. Sherman from the committee on finance, reported favorably with amendments, bill to provide for the issue of three per cent. bonds. He gave notice he would ask its consideration immediately after the holidays. An executive message was transmitted with accompanying papers touching the proposed modification of the Clayton-Bulwer treaty of 1850 between the United States and Great Britain.

Friday, in the Senate, the following assignments in the rearrangement of committees, consequent upon recent vacancies, were announced by the chair: Windom is substituted for Edmunds as chairman of the committee on foreign affairs, and takes the place of Aldrich on the same committee. He is also assigned to the committees on patents and education and labor, to fill vacancies, and to the committee on transportation routes to the seaboard, in place of Blair. Harrison succeeds Logan on Indian affairs, and Sawyer on territories; Aldrich in place of Hawley on the District of Columbia. Sewell is assigned to the chairmanship of enrolled bills in place of Hoilins; Sawyer to select committee on census in place of Cameron of Wisconsin; Miller of New York, to epidemic diseases in place of Miller of California; Hill, of Colorado, to select committee on Nicaraguan claims in place of Hawley; Dawes to civil service and retrenchment in place of Hill, of Colorado; Saunders to select committee on civil service in place of Hoar; Van Wyck to pensions to fill vacancy.

In the House, on Friday, Chalmers, of Mississippi, offered a bill providing for the issue of $360,000,000 more of U. S. Treasury notes, to be exchanged by national banks for national bank bills. The bill is long and provides for a general revolution in our financial policy.

In the Senate, Monday, Mr. Jones of Florida, resumed his argument on the question of the President's inability. In the House the bill granting the franking privilege to Mrs. Garfield, was passed. Mr. Hawk of Illinois introduced a bill for the protection of the President's life. Secretary of State Frelinghuysen, Monday, took possession of the Department of State. A bill was introduced by Mr. Richardson of South Carolina, to apply the proceeds of the sale of public lands to the education of the people.

In Senate, on Tuesday, Butler's resolution was adopted, instructing the committee on civil service and retrenchment to inquire into the advisability and propriety of providing by law for the compensation of the U. S. district attorney, assistant district attorney, U. S. marshal, deputy marshal, collectors of customs, collectors internal revenue, deputy collectors and U. S. commissioners by paying them fixed salaries, to be regulated and graded as near as may be by services rendered and responsibilities imposed. Mr. Blair introduced a bill to protect pension money from attachment, levy or seizure, by process of law, and the amount of the same money taken and invested in a homestead; referred to the committee on pensions. Both branches adjourned yesterday (Wednesday) until the 5th of January.

MAINE AGRICULTURAL NEWS. The annual meeting of the Kennebec Agricultural Society will be held at Readfield Corner, on the first Monday in January, 1882, at 10 o'clock A. M.——Mr. Thomas Smith has purchased over $12,000 worth of apples for shipping to Boston, in Bridgton and surrounding towns.——The Androscoggin and Oxford Union Poultry Association will hold its annual exhibition at New Hall, South Paris, Jan. 3d, 4th, and 5th, 1882. H. S. Ball, of Massachusetts, will be judge of the show. All premiums will be paid in full on the last day.——Calvin Williams of North Vassalboro', has a Jersey heifer worth talking about. She dropped her first calf last spring when only nineteen months old. She calves again in March, and at this writing, Dec. 14th, gives six quarts a day. Who beats it?——Potatoes are now selling in Aroostook for $2 per barrel. Oats are worth 40 cents cash per bushel.——Mr. A. E. Faught has appointed assistant statisticians for Kennebec county as follows: Horace Colburn, Windsor, S. S. Smith, Litchfield, and Ora O. Crosby, Albion.——The champion steers of New England were raised and are owned by Reuben Chadbourne of No. Berwick; grade, Durham; one two years old on the 16th, the other the 23d of last March; color, deep chestnut of the same shade; girt 7 feet 5 inches and 7 feet 6 inches: weight, 3500 lbs., 20 lbs. difference in weight. A gentleman from Western Massachusetts is now trying to negotiate for them, we are told.——The members of the West Penobscot Agricultural Society are notified that the annual meeting of said society will be held in the Exeter Mills Hall in Exeter, Saturday the seventh day of January next at ten of the clock in the forenoon for the choice of officers and transaction of other proper business.——Feb. 15, 1881, Mr. R. G. Newell of Lisbon, bought a shoat for $6. When her pigs were four weeks old he sold the shoat and six pigs for $23. The three kept, dressed 771 lbs., worth 8¼ cts. per lb., making $88.62 received.——M. E. Grover of Poland with two or three years has set out nearly 200 trees, from the Northern Nursery, Mechanic Falls, Androscoggin county. Has not lost a tree, mostly set in the fall, which he prefers. Mr. G. has a very handsome umbrella shaped winter Harvey tree, the top of which measures 31½ feet from tip to tip, the trunk being only 2 feet 9 inches in length. In two years past, it has borne some 35 bushels of very nice apples.

Amputation of the Leg.

The Old Family Physician at Fault—Dr. David Kennedy the Successful Surgeon.

Money is the universal necessity, and none but a cynic or a fool will affect to despise it. Mr. Abram Ellsworth, of Port Ewen, Ulster county, N. Y., had realized this truth. His disease involved the whole of his thigh-bone, and the suffering man looked forward, not without apparent reason, to death as his only deliverer. His family physician refused to amputate the limb—asserting that the operation would kill the patient on the spot. Dr. David Kennedy of Rondout, N. Y., who was consulted, held a different opinion, and amputated the limb. The Doctor then administered freely his great Blood Specific FAVORITE REMEDY to afford tone and strength to the system, prevent the return of the disease, and Mr. Ellsworth remains to this day in the bloom of health. This gentleman's disease was the offspring of foul blood, and Kennedy's FAVORITE REMEDY purified the blood and restored to him the power once more to enjoy his life. Are you suffering from any disease traceable to the same cause? Try Favorite Remedy. Your druggist has it. ONE DOLLAR a bottle. Bear in mind the proprietor's name and address: Dr. *David* KENNEDY, Rondout, New York. 1m2

INDUSTRIAL NOTES. Wm. Underwood & Co.'s factory at Jonesport, is at present canning clams. There will be three hundred tons of hay used in the lumbering woods on the West Machias river the present winter. Gardiner & Harmon's expense for hired men will be one thousand dollars per month. There are some twenty companies engaged in lumbering on Dead River and its tributaries, and the estimated amount of lumber to be cut foots up 31,000,000. M. Currier & Co., of Abbot, have manufactured since last April, over 500 tons of excelsior, giving employment to a large crew of men about their mill, cutting their next year's wood, building sheds, &c. A fine mill, 45x98 feet and two stories high, has just been erected at the falls of the Piscataquis river, in the town of Howland. The lower story or basement of the mill, which is occupied by shafting and belting, is 16 feet high, and the upper story, where the machinery will be, is 11 feet. The dam which has been built at this point is 850 feet in length, giving a fall of 9 feet and 1300 horse power at a low stage of water. The mill has been erected by the Searsport Spool and Block Co. This company recently purchased 9,000 acres of the timber land in the vicinity and now has 84 men and 42 horses engaged in cutting and hauling white birch for spool stock, and hemlock, spruce and pine for sawing into boards. The timber land borders upon Schoodic Lake, which is connected with the Piscataquis by a stream, both being good driving waters. Arrangements have been made for the starting up of a woolen factory at East Dover. The citizens of that place have subscribed the necessary $1500 and the papers were drawn up and signed last week. Messrs. Egery of Bangor and D. B. Whittier of Dover, are the owners of the property, who are to fit it up. It will be a one-set mill, will give employment to some 15 or 30 persons, and will be quite a lift to the citizens of East Dover.

AN OVERWORKED SCHOOL-GIRL,

From one of this large class of sufferers, we have the following testimonial:

"CINNAMINSON, N. J., August, 1880.

"From a feeling of gratitude and a desire to benefit others in a like situation, I voluntarily give my experience with the Compound Oxygen treatment. When I began it I had for more than a year been suffering from nervous prostration; for I belong to a class which increases yearly, viz., overworked school girls. My general improvement for nearly two months after I began the Home Treatment was scarcely perceptible, but at the end of that time I began to improve, and now, after eleven months have passed, I can safely say that I have been cured. I sleep and rest well, and am generally in possession of a good appetite, while headaches and backaches are quite unheard of. My throat is cured, and my voice is stronger than ever before. I surprise my friends by my greatly increased physical strength. The fact that I have induced several friends to try this Treatment is an evidence of my faith in its curative power." Our Treatise on Compound Oxygen, containing large reports of cases and full information, sent free. DRS. STARKEY & PALEN, 1109 and 1111 Girard Street, Philadelphia, Pa.

MYSTERY SOLVED.—The great secret of the wonderful success of VEGETINE. It strikes at the root of disease by purifying the blood, restoring the liver and kidneys to healthy action, invigorating the nervous system.

An effort existing without a cause is an impossibility; tickling in the throat, huskiness of the voice, violent coughing, etc., are the effects of a severe cold. Dr. Bull's Cough Syrup cures the cold at once, and removes its serious effects.

One month ago it was impossible for me to get a whole night's sleep on account of my back aching, but now, owing to the Great Kidney Remedy, "ELIXIR OF LIFE ROOT," I sleep like a top. It is truly a wonderful medicine. WM. SOULE.

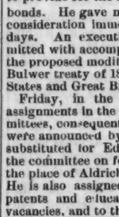
The Most Unhappy Person in the world is the Dyspeptic. Everything looks dark and gloomy; he feels "out of sorts" with himself and everybody else. Life is a burden to him. This can all be changed by taking PERUVIAN SYRUP (a protoxide of iron.) Cases of 27 years standing have been cured by it.

Dr. Davis of the Chicago Medical College, says that it will require the drinking of more than six barrels of beer to obtain nutritive material equal to that contained in an ordinary loaf of bread.

CONSUMPTION CURED.

SINCE 1870 Dr. Sherar has each year sent from this office the means of relief and cure to thousands afflicted with disease. The correspondence necessitated by this work becoming too heavy for him, I came to his aid. He now feels constrained to relinquish it entirely, and has placed in my hands the formula of that simple vegetable remedy discovered by an East Indian missionary, and found so effective for the speedy and permanent cure of Consumption, Bronchitis, Catarrh, Asthma and all Throat and Lung diseases; also a positive and radical cure for Nervous Debility and all Nervous Complaints. In remarkable curative powers have been proven in many thousand cases, and, actuated by the desire to relieve suffering humanity, I gladly assume the duty of making it known to others. Address me, with stamp, naming this paper, and I will mail you, free of charge, the receipt and full instructment with full directions for its preparation and use, printed in German, French or English. W. A. NOYES, *149 Powers Block, Rochester, N. Y.* 1365

Special Notices.



ROYAL BAKING POWDER

Absolutely Pure.

Made from Grape Cream of Tartar, imported exclusively for this powder from the Vine Districts of France. Always uniform and wholesome. Sold only in cans by all Grocers. A pound can mailed to any address, postage paid, on receipt of 60 cents. ROYAL BAKING POWDER CO., 171 Duane St., New York. Most cheap powders contain alum; dangerous to health; avoid them, especially when offered loose or in bulk. 1y39

VARIOUS CAUSES—

Advancing years, care, sickness, disappointment, and hereditary predisposition—all operate to turn the hair gray, and either of them inclines it to shed prematurely. AYER'S HAIR VIGOR will restore faded or gray hair to a rich brown or black of as deep black, as may be desired. It softens and cleanses the scalp, giving it a healthy action. It removes and cures dandruff and humors. And the falling hair is checked, and a new growth will be produced in all cases where the follicles are not destroyed or the glands decayed. Its effects are beautifully shown on brashy, weak or sickly hair, on which a few applications will produce the gloss and freshness of youth. Harmless and sure in its operation. It is incomparable as a dressing, and is especially valued for the soft lustre and richness of tone it imparts. It contains neither oil nor dye, and will not soil or color white cambric; yet it lasts long on the hair, and keeps it fresh and vigorous.

FOR SALE BY ALL DRUGGISTS.

A CARD.

To all who are suffering from the errors and indiscretions of youth, nervous weakness, early decay, loss of manhood, &c., I will send a recipe that will cure you, FREE OF CHARGE. This great remedy was discovered by a missionary in South America. Send a self-addressed envelope to the REV. JOSEPH T. INMAN, *Station D, New York City.* 26t50†

AGENTS can now grasp a fortune. Outfit worth $10 sent free. For particulars address E. G. RIDEOUT & Co., 10 Barclay St., N. Y. 1y6

FARM HAND WANTED.

I WANT a good, experienced man on my farm in Augusta, who is capable of doing all kinds of farm work, and taking care of stock, and who can safely be left in charge of the place. Satisfactory wages will be given.
E. E. LEONARD.
Augusta, Dec. 22, 1881. 4t5

Married.

In Belfast, Dec. 15, Ambrose M. Hatch to Belle M. Hatch, both of Islesboro; Dec. 8, Henry S. Rassick, of South Thomaston, to Flora M. Elms of Belfast.
In Bridgton, Dec. 7, Joseph E. Moorhouse to Mary E. Haley; Dec. 10, Thomas J. Douglass to Georgia I. Newbegin.
In Bangor, Dec. 19, Frank L. Morrill to Marian L. Ewer; Dec. 10, Albert C. Smith to Abbie L. Dyer, both of Eddington.
In Chicago, Ill., Nov. 19, Lewis B. Remick to May E. Rogers of Holden, Me.
In Cherryfield, Dec. 11, Fred A. Palmer of Lancaster, N. H., to Lucy Ray.
In Coplin, Nov. 26, Frank Wyman to Clara Dolbier, both of Coplin Plantation.
In Eden, Dec. 9, Rodolph Grindle of Bluehill, to May Louisa Young.
In Eastport, Dec. 5, Sydney S. Smith of Carrollton, Mich., to Amelia Campbell; Dec. 8, Joseph Anderson to Emily Rice.
In Fairfield, Dec. 4, James A. Gullifer to Flora Chase.
In Ft. Fairfield, Dec. 5, Charles E. Brown to Hattie E. Soule.
In Farmington, Dec. 9, Albert Morrow to Mabel L. Knowlton.
In Ferry Village, Dec. 7, Geo. B. Richards to Edith M. Trefethen, both of Cape Elizabeth.
In Franklin, Dec. 11, Willard L. Hardison to Anna L. Springer.
In Gorham, Dec. 11, Wilber F. Rand of Standish, to Mary Cressy of Buxton.
In Houlton, Jan. Alonzo C. Miller to Josie M. Wright, both of Littleton.
In Lewiston, Dec. 12, John Wright to Hattie M. Hanson; Dec. 14, Alonzo B. Morrill to Susie A. Morrill, both of Waterville.
In Marinville, Dec. 10, Geo. W. Black, Jr., to Ruth A. Jordan of Otis.
In Mount Desert, Dec. 8, Elwood F. Richardson of Eden, to Cora L. Spurling of Cranberry Isle.
In New Gloucester, Nov. 10, Frank W. Burry to Flora R. Rideout.
In Portland, Dec. 5, Henry S. Libby to Cora E. Bean; Dec. 6, Lewis L. Thurston to Mrs. Annie E. Beal; Dec. 13, Chas. H. Ross to Donna E. Howe.
In Rockland, Oct. 31, Vital Guimette to Selina Grinder, both of St. George.
In Scarsport, Dec. 1, Capt. J. L. Crawford of Thomaston, to Clara E. McGilvery; Nov. 22, James Harriman to Mrs. Abigail Harriman of Prospect.
In Stellarton, N. S., Nov. 23, J. D. McLean to Mary F. Urquhart, both of Hopewell.
In Steuben, Dec. 5, Wilber Gilley of Tremont, to Emily S. Dyer.
In South Orrington, Nov. 26, Perry A. Fowler to Ella M. Hatch.
In Swanville, Nov. 28, Raymond R. Marden to Hattie M. Patterson.
In Searsmont, Nov. 14, Leroy Marriner to Nancy E. Thomas; Dec. 3, Zebedee Simmons of Belfast, to Addie L. Paul.
In St. Stephen, N. B., Nov. 24, Alfred Towers of Calais, to Jennie P. Fraiser.
In Tremont, Dec. 3, Shepley S. Stanley to Carrie F. Buckminster of Deer Isle.
In Union, Nov. 24, Benjamin Newbert to Martha E. Jones, both of Warren.
In Vinalhaven, Dec. 7, Charles W. Halstead to Jennie E. Chase; Dec. 10, Augustus E. Arey to Lottie Robbins of North Haven.
In Waldoboro, Dec. 10, Charles T. Keene of Bremen, to Clara M. Kaler.

Died.

In this city, Dec. 19, of pneumonia, Mrs. Phebe J. D'Arthenay, aged about 55 years.
In Alna, Dec. 6, Alvin Smiley, aged 60 years.
In Alna, Dec. 9, Mary A. Jewett, aged 43 years.
In Albion, Dec. 15, Mrs. Charles B. Horn, aged 66¾ years.
In Arrowsic, Dec. 9, Wm. R. Russell, aged 89 years.
In Bangor, Dec. 13, John D. Crabtree, aged 77 years; Dec. 13, Mrs. Susan Costellow, aged 89½ years.
In Belfast, Dec. 11, Mrs. Allura Rolx, aged 82¾ years.
In Bath, Dec. 14, Mrs. John J. Dunning, aged 66 years; Addie M McCutcheon, aged 19¾ years; Dec. 6, William Duley, aged 67¼ years.
In Brewer, Dec. 13, Joseph J. Burr, aged 56¾ years.
In Chelsea, Nov. 24, Jesse B. Austin, aged 60 years.
In Ellsworth, Dec. 7, Isaac Jordan, aged 89¾ years.
In Eden, Dec. 7, Mrs. Hannah D. Phippin, aged 75¾ years; Nov. 22, Andrew J. Hamor, aged about 74 years.
In Ft. Fairfield, Dec. 8, Clyde, child of L. Richardson, of Oil City, Pa.
In Farmington, Dec. 7, Mrs. Cyrus Odell, aged 73¾ years.
In North Castine, Nov. 13, George W. Johnston, aged 19½ years.
In North Sedgwick, Nov. 28, George S. Hooper, aged 29½ years.
In N. New Portland, Dec.

Poetry.

A Christmas Greeting.

Wave, mystic bough, with all thy pearls;
Shine, little pearls, o'er bench and stall,
In poor man's cottage, rich man's hall;
Make glad our English boys and girls.

And gladden us of longer years,
Made children by thy happy glow,
Recalling from the long ago
Dead kisses and forgotten tears.

We weave thy tints with those that gleam
More bravely in the holly sprays,
And weaving, muse of ancient days,
And musing, see as those who dream.

The forest glades, the solemn night,
The glory where the moonbeams slant,
The far-off Druidical chant,
The gliding robes—the pagan rite.

And then from out the darkness leaps
A light—around the holly borne—
A light that on that Christmas morn
First broke upon Judaean steeps.

In golden shafts which flushed the wind
With glory, borne o'er every sea,
The herald of great good to be—
Freedom and hope for all mankind.

Wave, mystic bough! To thee belong
The praises that I fain would sing;
From out the wintry woodlands bring
The gladness of thy thrushe's song.

The foliage died on bank and brye,
The pale leaves fluttered stricken dead;
The rain-clouds scathed the forehead,
The West was lit with sullen fire.

Each tree drew on its snowy hood,
Or bared gaunt arms, while yew between
Shone out—a flash of golden green
Upon the darkness of the wood.

Shine now on all our darken'd days,
On hearth and home, on young and old,
And teach some hearts to fling their gold,
As then thy light, in straiten'd ways.

Shine now, that underneath thy leaves
The custom old may live anew,
And kisses fall, when hearts are true,
As plentiful as autumn sheaves.

Shine out on all, and far and wide—
On cheeks where lingers yet the tear,
On hearts so weary of the year—
A flash of joy this Christmas tide!

Our Story Teller.

THE MINISTER'S CHRISTMAS PARTY.

Smartown is a thriving manufacturing village about twenty miles from Boston. It is very much like a score of other towns in that locality—half city and half village. It has a main street with tall brick blocks upon it, two brick school-houses, half a dozen handsome churches, a few back lanes with licensed eating saloon upon the corners, two large cotton mills, and the usual mixture of good and bad, rich and poor, among its inhabitants.

The pastor of one of these Churches, at the time of which I write, was Rev. Earnest Noble. He was a young man, full of zeal for his work, and accounted among the young ladies of his flock a model of perfection, until one day he requested that the unused parsonage be put in order, and soon after brought from Boston a bright little woman to rule over it. From that time much of the special interest in regard to him began to wane, and he was no longer overwhelmed with slippers, pen-wipers, paper-weights, etc.

And the poor man, dazzled by the bright eyes of his merry little wife, seemed never to notice the change, but pursued the even tenor of his way, preaching, if possible, with greater fervor than before.

Thus six weeks passed, and the holidays drew near. One day in the sewing circle it was announced that the minister was going to have a party. There could be no mistake, for Sister Grundy's niece, Sarah Brown, the seamstress, while sewing at the parsonage, had overheard the minister and his wife talking in his study. She was in the next room, but, sitting near the crack of the door, could not help hearing the words "invite," "refreshments," "games," "music," and something about "dancing," and she guessed they were going to have a high time.

"You don't say so!" cried the horrified sisters in concert.

"Just as I expected!" said one.

"I told you so!" said another. "It's all the doings of that Boston wife of his'n. Why couldn't he have been contented to have taken a good pious sister from his own church, instead of going way to Boston after such a doll?"

"I shan't be surprised at anything after this. I never"—but here the Christian conversation was interrupted by the summons to tea, and the unexpected appearance in their midst of the "pastor and his" "Boston wife."

You may be sure that after this the parsonage was closely watched. No sentinel in time of war ever kept closer guard over an unsuspecting enemy, than did these faithful sisters over the movements of the clergyman's family.

Little Mrs. Noble wondered twenty times a day what had so suddenly interested the sisters in her behalf; for during the next two weeks she received more calls than during her previous six months' stay with this people. But never a hint did they gain from her of what was going on in her domains.

Yet, certainly, preparations of some sort were steadily progressing, and it was suspected that the "time" was coming off Christmas day.

Christmas came on Friday. Monday watchful eyes had seen a load of evergreens deposited in the minister's cellar. Tuesday. Mr. Noble was very busy all day, but what was the nature of his business no one could learn; for when Squire Cheatum's daughter had stopped her sleigh on purpose to invite his wife to ride with her on Christmas day, he politely informed her that she had a previous engagement, and hastened away to overtake a little boot-black.

Their conversation evidently had an exhilarating effect on the little fellow, for as soon as Mr. Noble had turned the corner, he turned several somersaults and pirouetted up and down the icy pavement on his hands, his feet suspended in the air.

Wednesday, Thursday, and the next two hours vexed the peaceful air in the vicinity of the parsonage with most unearthly sounds. Thursday, the expressman left a mysterious box at the door. Some one, entirely disinterested, asked him what he supposed it contained; he replied curtly, "Cut flowers, of course!"

And so the week grew! But what was the most mysterious of all, it was impossible to find out who were invited. Squire Cheatum, who paid the most towards the preacher's salary, knew nothing about it; Mr. License, who kept the finest eating-saloon in the city, and only a few choice liquors for certain of his guests, you know; Judge Sentence, who always tried and decided his worst cases while intently listening to the sermon Sabbath afternoon; Deacon Smith, Sarah Brown, the seamstress and her elderly relative, Mrs. Grundy, were alike excluded from the invitations, if, in fact, any had been issued.

Friday morning broke cloudless and bright, lighting up with myriads of sparkling gems the freshly-fallen snow.

"How beautiful! how delightful?" exclaimed Mrs. Noble, as she peeped through the frosty pane. "Don't you like to see fresh snow upon the ground Christmas morning, Ernest?"

"Yes, dear, it seems a fitting emblem of Him whose advent we celebrate to-day. He found the world full of misery, wickedness and strife; He brought to it a religion of love and peace. He finds our souls full of all uncleanness; He washes them whiter than snow, and clothes them with the pure robe of righteousness. May all that we do to-day, be done to His glory, my dear!"

"Amen!" whispered May; and the pastor went into his study where unmolested, he always passed a half hour before breakfast.

'Tis ten o'clock, and Mrs. May Noble stands in her pretty parlor, taking a final survey of herself and her apartments before the arrival of her guests. The gossips have guessed right for once, and there is to be a dinner-party at the parsonage this Christmas day. Evergreens, trailing woodland mosses and Hartford ferns adorn the picture frames and mirrors, and bouquets of sweet-scented flowers greet one at every turn. The dining-room looks inviting. Here, too, we find pictures and ever-greens, and a table richly spread with cut glass, silver (which looks suspiciously like wedding presents), and rich flowers which fill the air with a delicious perfume.

No wonder the face of the young housekeeper wears a satisfied expression, for all the arrangements are perfect. From the kitchen beyond comes the savory smell of roasting fowl, while a broad-faced German girl bustles about, her face aglow alike with heat and satisfaction.

Mrs. Noble passed through all the rooms, lowering this shade a little, and raising that one, changing the position of a vase and moving a chair, peeped into the mirror, tossed back her curls and repinned her collar, and finally sat down to her piano to await the arrival of her guests.

Suddenly it occurred to her that she had not the slightest idea who were to be the recipients of her bounty. In arranging matters with her husband he had said,—

"Make what arrangements you please, little wife. Have your dinner fit for the king, if you wish, and I will invite the guests. Is there any one you wish particularly to invite?"

"None but Auntie and Fannie Gray. Fannie will help me entertain the children. You must invite the children, you know, for I could not endure a party of grown-up people solely."

"Yes, this was all that had been said upon the subject. She was just crossing the hall towards the study to ask Ernest whom she might expect, when the door-bell rang.

Opening the door she confronted an old lady in an calico dress and faded shawl, whom all the town called "Aunt Patty."

Thinking Aunt Patty had come to tell her pastor some fresh trouble, she led her at once to the study. But Aunt Patty began removing her wrappings as soon as she entered the door, and just as she crossed the threshold of the study she handed them to the astonished May, saying,—

"Here, take um! Thought I'd be on hand in good season. How good them posies smell!"

Aunt Patty seated herself very composedly and took out her blue knitting-work as if she intended to spend the day. Before the hostess could recover herself, the bell pealed again long and loud. Opening the door quickly she was just in time to see a pair of shiny boots describing a semicircle in the air and the body of a very little boy assume a perpendicular attitude. His eyes were bright and roguish, and his face somewhat streaked with cleanliness. Pulling off his torn cap, thereby revealing a most ludicrous attempt at toilet making, he said,—

"How d'y do, mam? Is the parson to hum?"

The sound of crutches now arrested her attention, and the one-legged soldier, who mended old umbrellas and sung camp-songs to the children, was seen coming up the steps. The street seemed to be full of the lame, the halt and the blind, and the people across the way were crowding their windows to see the odd procession pass.

On they came, straight up the steps and into the door of the parsonage.

May stood back too astonished to speak, and let them pass. There was the blind man who sold shoe-strings and lead-pencils on the corner of Fair street. There was the man in the big army overcoat that she had many a time seen peddling oranges and peanuts on the next corner. Here was little hunchback Jenny Wren who made dolls' clothing for a store in Boston. Now came half a dozen children who worked in the mill, their jackets even now bearing traces of cotton that they had in vain tried to remove.

Straight on to the study they went, scarcely heeding her. In the doorway stood Ernest with a smiling countenance and warm grasp of the hand extending a cordial greeting to each of them.

"Ernest, do tell what this means!" whispered May, as soon as she could gain his ear.

"These are our guests, little wife. Don't you remember the command, 'Inasmuch as ye do it unto one of the least of these,' etc. Could we better celebrate His birthday than by caring for His poor?"

Away ran May to her room, and the minister was left alone with his strange guests. In ten minutes she came back, all disappointment and vexation gone from her countenance, and no one would have thought from any act of hers that the guests were not each of her own inviting.

Then came the dinner. And such a feast as it was to those poor people! I despair of describing it. Not so little Jim, the boot-black. He never tired of talking of the subject, and every gentleman whose boots he blacked for the next three weeks was regaled with an account of the wonderful dinner.

"I hear you were at the minister's party yesterday, Jim. Did you have a good time?" said a gentleman to him the next day.

"You bet we did!" replied Jim with a wise look.

"Do tell me about it. I really want to know. What did you have for dinner?" queried the gentleman.

"Oh, lots and lots of nice things! We had soup with little white things like curly pipe-stems swimming round in it. Two turkeys with all the fixins! Oh, my! w'an't they nice! A great big pudding, steaming hot and full of plums. We ate with silver forks, and had our plates changed twice; and close up by every plate was a little bunch of flowers that smelt like heaven—like heaven, I guess. When we came away, Miss Noble gave us the flowers to bring home with us. I didn't have no good place to keep mine, so I put 'um in my pocket. Want to see 'um? They don't look very nice, but they're mighty sweet, and I mean to keep 'um forever."

"Yes, that's all about the dinner, only all the time we was eatin' Miss Fanny and Miss Noble kept walking round the table and saying, 'Don't you want some of this? Shall I fill your glass?' just as if we was princes.

"And, sir, I wondered if heaven wasn't something like that—if we should sit down to great long tables all loaded with good things, and the angels with shiny wings should wait on us just as Miss Fanny did. 'I wouldn't be no stranger, nohow," he added musingly.

"What did you do after dinner?"

"After dinner, Miss Noble's aunt talked with the old women about rheumatism and fevers, and Miss Fanny showed us pictures and told us stories. Then Miss Noble played something quick on the piano, and afore I thought I found myself walking afore all the company on my hands. Miss Noble didn't scold a bit, only everybody laughed. Then she teached us a song about Christmas. It's mighty pretty. I sing it every time I'm cold or hungry, and then I don't mind so much. Then I'om the soldier sang a song, and we all sang the chorus—'Glory, glory, hallelujah!'—just as loud as we could holler, and Mr. Noble clapped his hands and said 'twas splendid.

"After the big-faced German girl got the dishes washed, we children and the minister all went out into the big kitchen. We played 'puss in the corner,' 'hide the handkerchief,' and lots of nice things. Then the minister said, 'Let's tell stories.' So we all sat down on the floor close together. I told a story about a bear, Bill Larkin told one about a ghost, and we all told some sort of a story. When it came Mr. Noble's turn he told the best one of all. It was about a little baby that was born in a stable on the first Christmas morning that ever was. When he grew up He loved poor little fellows like me, 'cause He was once poor himself. By and by wicked men killed Him, but He come to life again, and knows all about us this very minute. What do you 'spose this man's name was? Nr. Noble almost whispered it to us, 'cause he said we must never say it when we are mad with anybody. I guess you know who I mean, don't you, Mister?"

But the gentleman only said, "Go on."

"Well that's 'bout all. By'm by they lit the gas, and we all went into the eatin'-room again and had some ice-cream and cake. After that we sat down in the parlor, Bill Larkin and me on the floor, while Miss Fanny played on the piano and we all sang, 'Gather at the river.'

"Then the minister prayed that we might all be good and get to heaven, where the streets are all gold and it is never cold. I'm going to try to go there, ain't you, Mister? That's all. Then we all come home."

The last guest had departed. May closed the door gently, and came back into the parlor where Ernest was standing alone. He came forward quickly, and took both her hands in his.

"May, do you forgive me for not telling you of our guests before their arrival?"

"Freely, Ernest, for this has proved one of the happiest days of my life. After the first shock wore off, I was glad you did not tell me, for I fear I should not have approved of the plan and so have spoiled a great deal of pleasure for several people. But what made you think of inviting such a host of queer people?"

"Something I read a few days since. I assure you it was by no means an original idea;" and opening the family Bible, he read these words:

"When thou makest a dinner or a supper, call not thy friends, nor thy brethren, neither thy kinsmen nor thy rich neighbors, lest they also bid thee again, and a recompense be made thee. But when thou makest a feast, call the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind; and thou shalt be blessed, for they cannot recompense thee; for thou shalt be recompensed at the resurrection of the just."

Molly Gregg's Christmas Eve.

Poor little Molly Gregg was a waif. Left an orphan at the age of six, she was claimed by a coarse, brutal woman, who lived in the tenement house where Molly's mother died. Of the many women who are so solicitous for the welfare of the little heathens in far-away countries there was none to care for the little orphan at their own door-stone.

So Molly was left to be beaten and ill-used by this wicked woman, who sent her daily to beg, and would have had her steal; but the purity and innate honesty that dwelt in the soul of this poor little waif made her strong as a lion to resist evil, and when she battled for the right the bright light from within would shine out on her thin, pinched face like one sometimes sees a sunbeam lighting up the most desolate spot on God's earth, giving them a beauty not their own.

Molly struggled on through her miserable life, breasting its storms as best she might, until she reached the age of 11. She had never forgotten the good her kind mother had taught her, and night and morning she knelt in prayer to Him who is ever a Father to the desolate, and kneeled, too, in thankfulness for even her poor lot. Yes, ye who grumble at your overladen tables in your rich attire, think of this!

On the 24th of December, 18—, the wind whistled roughly, as it will sometimes do, even on Christmas Eve, causing the passers-by to hurry with a shiver through the snow covered streets. Even the gas-lights seemed to be chilled, except those that came from the highly-decorated stores, with their tempting display of toys and confectionery. These sent out into the frozen streets a warm glow, in which many lingered.

All through that day Molly Gregg had been unsuccessful in obtaining even one penny, as all were too busy to heed her plaintive and timid appeal, and so she returned to her so-called home empty handed.

Instead of getting something to eat, and being permitted to warm her poor frozen fingers after her weary round, she was driven forth by her cruel tyrant to "try again." She wandered on through the thronged streets and asked just one penny of many who were laden with luxuries, and full of thoughts of the morrow; but it was too cold to take out their purses, so they hurried home.

The poor little girl shivered on until she passed the brilliant thoroughfares and came upon a row of large houses, the shutters of which were all tightly closed with the exception of one, from the basement window of which the light shone brightly.

Molly was worn, hungry and cold, so she sank down and leaned her head against a window pane gazed into the warm, cheerful room in which was a large Christmas tree, bearing down with its weight of toys, fruit and sugar-plums; scattered around were drums, horses and trumpets for the boys; dolls, teasets and picture-books for the girls. Such wonderful things in one house Molly had never seen before. She thought it must be Heaven, and the smiling mother who superintended the arrangement of the tree seemed like her own dead mother. If they would let her in for *one* minute she would be *so* happy, and she tried to rap against the window, but her numb fingers made such a slight noise that amid the roaring of the wind without and the cheerful chatter within, her feeble effort was not heard; yet she still sat gazing longingly at the brightness within, until at last a pleasant drowsiness stole over her, and she slept.

Now she was clothed in rags no longer, but was dressed in warm, bright garments, kissed and petted by a kind mother, played with by smiling brothers and sisters who seemed to vie with each other in lavishing upon her the love for which her poor little heart had sighed so long. The wind toyed with her tattered dress and scattered her yellow hair over her thin wan face, and sported with her poor apology for a bonnet; yet still she slept until God in His mercy called her, when the poor, tired spirit fled to obey the glad summons.

Molly's Christmas Eve ended in heaven; Christmas dawned for her amid the glory of God and the chant of angels.

The last toy had been fastened on the tree. All in the room stood to admire the effect when they were startled by the cry of a servant who had gone forward to close the shutters, against which was leaning the cold, dead body of a little girl. They lifted her into the room and tried every means to revive her, but in vain.

Those who stood there with sad faces, feeling sorry for the poor little waif, knew not that her lot then was brighter than theirs, for while they mourned she was singing "Glory be to God in the highest and peace on earth good will to men," in Heaven.

Young Folks' Column.

What Ted Found in His Stocking.

"I don't care, I *will* go!
So there, Mamma Mouse!
The folks are all sleeping
All over the house;

"The stockings are hanging,—
I smell the sweet bits.
It's enough to drive mousies
Into wild, crazy fits!"

So when old Mrs. Mouse
Went off to her bed,
The little mouse whisked,
And popped up his head.

Then smelling his way
Very nicely along,
He jumped into a stocking,
So new and so strong.

But a string on a bundle
Stuck out in a loop,
And in it he tumbled,
The poor silly dupe!

Oh, then what bewailings
Came out of that stocking!
Such moans and lamentings,
It really was shocking!

"Oh dear! and oh dear!
I wish I was home!
If I'd minded mamma,
And hadn't 'a'come!"

But 'twas all of no use,
The string was so tight
That all he could do
Was to wait for daylight.

Then Ted gave a shout
That awoke the whole house;
For there in his stocking
Was a little gray mouse!

What became of him then
The cat only can tell,
But one thing I'll say,
I know very well
That he'll never again on a Christmas Eve
Jump into a stocking without a good look.
—*Youths' Companion.*

Anderl's Christmas Eve.

Very lonely and sad was poor little Anderl of the Crags, when the day, so long expected, had come at last, and, bundle in hand, he was trying to say good-by to his mother, while little Rosel mopped dismally on, and the other children gathered around him and wailed lustily in chorus.

It was true, he was going to Nuremberg—that wonderful city he had heard so much of all his life—and he was to be apprenticed to a wood-carver, and learn to make beautiful toys, and perhaps even earn some money to help the struggling family at home. But he was only eleven years old, and never before had he been more than a few miles away from his father's charcoal-kiln, or the little cottage where he dwelt.

And now he was going into the great world, and perhaps it would be months before he should see any of the loved faces again. No wonder a choking sob rose in his throat, and his tears blinded him so that he could not see his mother's face as she bent over him for a last kiss.

"Good-by, my little Anderl!" she said. "You will be a good child, I know, and work hard, and not forget your prayers, and who can tell how soon we may see you again?"

"Come, come," interrupted his father, "the cart is waiting, and Seppel is in haste this morning; so jump in, my boy, and good-luck go with you. Remember, Master Florian Rimmel is your employer's name, and he lives but five doors from the Church of St. Lorenz. Any one can direct you to him. Good-by! keep up a stout heart, and you will learn to be something better than a charcoal-burner, like your father."

"Anderl, good-by! good-by!" sobbed little Frans and Baby Rosel, breaking from their mother's arms, and running after the cart; but Seppel, impatient at the delay, whipped up his horse, and, in a few minutes, all that he held dear had faded away from poor Anderl's straining eyes.

His heart seemed bursting, and it was in vain he tried to comfort himself with the thought of Nuremberg, and all that he was going to see and learn there.

His father was a poor charcoal-burner, and the boy had given early proofs of that talent for wood-carving which is so common in Bavaria and other parts of Germany.

When a little child, he would cut rude figures out of the soft charcoal with a broken clasp-knife, which was his only tool, and in these rough attempts at art his mother's loving eyes discerned a beauty which no one else could see.

But as he grew older, his hand became more skillful, and his father, noticing how cleverly the little fellow shaped his toys, and how natural his horses and deer began to look, determined to apprentice him to a wood-carver in Nuremberg, and sent word to a relative in that city to try and find for Anderl a master who would treat him kindly.

This was at last accomplished, and now, just as the leaves were beginning to fall from the trees—the little peasant-boy left his home and started on a new and strange life.

If he missed his mother's voice, and sighed bitterly sometimes at the thought of his baby-brother and sister, there was still much in Nuremberg to chase away such sad thoughts.

Anderl was never weary of the beautiful, quaint old city, with its narrow streets and its crowded houses, its gleaming church spires and long rows of shop-windows, filled with things more beautiful than he had ever dreampt of.

Master Florian was not a severe man, though silent and stern in manner, and he liked the eager, blue-eyed child who seemed dizzy with the wonders that surrounded him, and who grew pale with delight when he was shown the beautiful wood-carvings that filled the dark old store.

Was it possible that he, Anderl of the Crags, could ever learn to make such bewildering things? True, there was much hard work to be gone through first, but he did not shrink from that; and Master Florian never had a more attentive pupil than the little Bavarian lad, who toiled so perseveringly over his tools that the old man declared one day he would be more than a skillful workman—he would be an artist.

But now a plan had entered Anderl's mind, and filled him with a new ambition. Winter was coming on, and by Christmas he determined to send to his father a piece of carving that should be his own work throughout. How surprised they would be when they saw his improvement! and his mother, who thought his childish toys fine, what would she say to that?

Every spare minute was now devoted to this secret labor; and, instead of roaming through the gay and busy streets, the child would steal to his little room and strive hard to reproduce, in the fine, white wood, some of the teeming fancies that danced through his eager brain.

Now hopeful, now disheartened, he toiled bravely on; but the work was harder than he thought, and he had but little time that he could call his own; and so, when Christmas was but two days off, the gift was still unfinished.

Master Florian had gone out and left the store in Anderl's hands. If only there were no interruptions, he would have two good hours of daylight, and that would surely be enough to complete it.

With childish pleasure and the pride of a young artist, he lingered over his work, and saw with delight how rare and dainty it had grown.

Only a wooden cup, to-be-sure, but all around the sides he had carved trees and rocks and tall, waving grasses. Here peeped forth the head and antlers of a deer; there you saw the long ears of a rabbit, crouched trembling upon the ground.

For a handle to this wonderful cup, there was the head of a mountain-deer, its graceful, pointed horns curving backward till they touched the rim.

Absorbed in breathless contemplation of his work, Anderl never noticed that Master Florian had returned, bringing with him a stranger, wrapped in a heavy fur cloak.

"So," said he, "what have we here, I wonder? Why, my boy"—taking up the cup and examining it critically—"where did you get this? It does not belong to my stock."

"I made it, Master Florian!" said Anderl, jumping to his feet and blushing crimson. "Made it! and by yourself? But that is not possible!"

"But I did make it, indeed! It is a Christmas present for my father."

Here the stranger—who had not yet spoken, took the cup from Master Florian's hands, and carrying it to the window, looked at it carefully.

"Who is your father, my lad?" he said, at last, turning around, and Anderl noticed, for the first time, how handsome and kindly his face was, and with what deference his master treated him.

"He is Michael, the charcoal-burner at the Crags," replied the boy.

"A charcoal-burner! And you are going to give him this cup? Is he, then, rich?"

"Very poor, indeed, sir."

"In that case, why not sell this pretty cup, and buy him something useful with the money?"

Sell his cup! Anderl had never thought of that. He loved it dearly, to-be-sure, and sighed to think that he should never see it again, but he loved his mother and little Frans and Rosel a great deal more.

"I did not suppose that any one would buy it," he said, at last.

"I will," said the stranger, "if you will sell it to me, and I will give you ten thalers for it."

Ten thalers! Anderl's blue eyes grew round and wide at the very thought of such wealth. A thaler is worth about seventy-five cents, and the little Crags boy had never even dreamed of owning so much money. His head swam with the vision of all that he would buy, as with a flushed cheek he silently handed the cup to the richly-dressed stranger.

"My dear Count Otto," protested Master Florian, "are you not giving a great deal more than this work is worth?"

"Perhaps I am," said the count, smiling, "but I do not think so. It is a wonderful piece of carving for such a young child, and some day we shall see him both rich and famous. And now you may show me the design you spoke of, and we will leave the little apprentice to spend his well earned wealth."

Was ever a boy as happy as Anderl, the next day, when he roamed through the streets of Nuremburg with the ten thalers in his pocket? Never were stores so brilliant before; never were there such lovely things spread out for a boy to choose from.

After much deliberation, he bought a flaxen-haired doll for Rosel, a box of those pewter soldiers beloved by all German children for little Franz, a fur cap for his father, a gay silk handkerchief for his mother, some sweetmeats, and a package of nuts.

Master Florian had given him a holiday and he expected Seppel to drive him the next morning to his home.

How keen was the disappointment awaited him. Seppel, too, was taking a holiday, and the old cart that went to and fro every other day was stored away in the stable for a week. It was Christmas Eve, and how was he to get his presents home?

Anderl stood thinking the matter over for a minute, and then bravely determined to walk the distance was little, and the day cold and cloudy, but he felt sure he knew the way, and the thought of all the pleasure he was going to give urged him onward.

With his Christmas gifts strapped in a bundle, and the rest of his money in his pocket, the child set gally forth. He was strong and sturdy, this little Bavarian mountaineer, but the bitter north wind blew full in his face, chilling his blood, and blinding him now and then with sudden drifts of feathery snow. Still, as long as the sun was high, he struggled gallantly on, blowing on his frozen fingers, and comforting himself with the thought of how lovely and warm would be the kitchen-fire when he had reached home.

But as night came quickly on, and the biting wind grew still sharper, while the distance was not yet half gained, Anderl began to realize that the task he had set himself was beyond his strength, not that he lost heart, but that he wondered whether he did not reach home that night, he could keep himself from freezing in the cold and silent woods.

On and on he toiled, growing ever colder, fainter and more hopeless. The great tree-branches, white and spectral, waved mournfully to and fro as the sharp wind whistled through them.

His precious gifts, for which he had risked so much, were safely wrapped up.

No harm could happen to the wax-baby lying snugly in the big parcel; but its poor little bearer, beaten back by the angry wind, hardly knew where he stumbled.

A strange sleepiness weighed down his eyelids, and he would have lain in the snow and sunk quietly to rest, only he knew that such a rest meant death for him.

He remembered a story he had heard Master Florian tell, of how the great Italian painter, Corregio, when a boy, had nearly lost his life in carrying home the price of his first picture. But the Italian lad had been overcome by the heat; and Andrel, perishing with cold, wondered vaguely how any one ever could be too hot, as he struggled wearily on.

Strange, shooting pains darted through all his limbs; but mustering up his courage and praying desperately for help, he resisted steadily the deadly fatigue that crept over him.

All the hidden strength in the boy's nature, all that was brave and bright within him, helped him now in this battle for life, and, beaten at every point, he yet refused to yield.

But all this time a bright fire burned in the kitchen of the charcoal-burner, and shone redly on little Rosel's curly hair, as she leaned against her mother's knee.

"What will good Santa bring?" had been her wistful question so often that the mother, knowing how poor they were, and how little they had to give, tried to draw the child's mind off to other things.

But now Franz had taken up the cry, and after kissing them both, she drew back the curtain from the little window and watched the snow driving hard and fast against the panes.

Perhaps she was thinking of her absent boy, for her eyes filled with tears, and with a sigh, she sat down again by the fire and took Rosel upon her lap.

At that instant there came a tap at the door—a tap so faint and weak that her ears alone could hear it. With a bound, she flung it open, and there stood before her a little fair-haired boy, who tried to speak, and then all his strength giving away at last, tottered and fell prostrate on the floor.

Ah, well it was not too late that Anderl had gained his haven. A warm fire, a glass of hot wine, and many kisses soon brought him back to life again; and while he told his story, the bundle was unstrapped by eager little hands, and its wonderful contents displayed.

"Ten thalers for a wooden cup!" said the charcoal-burner, in amazement. "But I never heard of such a thing before!"

Anderl could not answer, because Rosel, baby in hand, was hanging around his neck and strangling him with hugs. But as his mother kissed him, with tears of proud delight, it seemed to him that even if he won fame and riches, as Count Otto had predicted, never could he be as happy again as on this hard-won Christmas Eve.

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ALL DRUGGISTS SELL IT. 52

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